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Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
75¢



Meteorologist says only 15 pct chance strong typhoon hits CNMI this year

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

There is only a 15 percent chance that a strong typhoon will hit the CNMI this year, according to National Weather Service-Forecast Office Guam warning coordination meteorologist Charles "Chip" Guard yesterday.

In an interview, Guard said this year looks like there is about a 50 percent chance for the CNMI of getting a severe tropical storm.

"That's not a typhoon," said Guard, adding that maybe there is a 25 percent chance of getting a mini-

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FERDIE DE LA TORRE
National Weather Service-Forecast Office Guam warning coordination meteorologist Charles "Chip" Guard poses with participants during the start yesterday of the two-day Annual NWS Tropical Cyclone, Disaster Preparedness, and Climate Workshop at the Emergency Operations Center on Capital Hill.

Volume XXVII, Issue No. 128
THURSDAY
JUNE 29, 2017
www.saipantribune.com
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Hospital set to lose 18 nurses

By BEA CABRERA
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REPORTER

Eighteen nurses of the Commonwealth Health Center face the threat of being sent back home as their CW-1 visa expires on July 1, 2017 because of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services' alleged inaction on the renewal employment petitions filed by CHC in the nurses' behalf.

» Muna blames USCIS 'inaction'

A meeting was held yesterday between Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. CEO Esther Muña and the 18 nurses at the CHCC conference room to discuss options available and in the meantime, to wait for the USCIS' reply on their request that seek the 240-day CW-1 extension. The USCIS has less than two days before July 1 to respond to CHCC's request.

Muña said, "The situation

See HOSPITAL on Page 4

Beijing Air to start service to Saipan next week

By BEA CABRERA
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REPORTER

Two days after dropping its lawsuit against the Commonwealth Ports Authority, Beijing Air will be flying from China to the CNMI starting July 5.

In a phone interview yesterday, Beijing Air counsel Daniel Guidotti said "Beijing Air is happy with the decision by CPA to allow international flights to Saipan."

Beijing Air will start flying to Saipan next week. They will be flying twice per week, arriving on Mondays at 5am and departing at 7am and Thursdays arriving at 1:30pm and departing at 4:50pm. The carrier originally planned to inaugurate its service to Saipan today, June 29.

Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Chris Concepcion is excited about the tourists that the airline will be

See BEIJING on Page 4

LibDay opening finally pushes through



By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

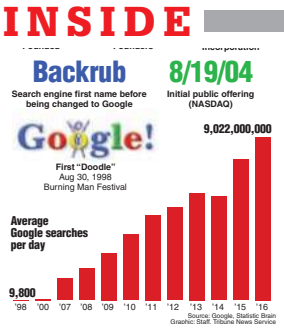
The 2017 Liberation Day grand opening finally pushed through last Tuesday despite threatening weather conditions and following several failed attempts.

The Liberation Day opening was originally set for last Saturday, June 24, but was rescheduled because of harsh

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KIMBERLY BAUTISTA
Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang blows the conch shell initiating the call to gather like what the ancient Chamorros used to do. Apatang blew the conch shell to commence the 2017 Liberation Day festivities.

INSIDE



BUSINESS
European regulators fined Google a record 2.42 billion euros ($2.72 billion) for abusing its dominance of the online search market

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WORLD
A stolen police helicopter fired on Venezuela's Supreme Court and Interior Ministry in what President Nicolas Maduro said was a thwarted "terrorist attack."

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LIFE & STYLE
Bill Cosby's "town hall" tour is unlikely to happen before his retrial on sex assault charges in Pennsylvania, one of his lawyers said Tuesday.

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Local

Hillbroom pleads guilty in Palau, gets 60-day prison term

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Junior Larry Hillbroom recently pleaded guilty to a lesser included offense of escape in the second degree before the Supreme Court of the Republic of Palau Trial Division and was slapped with a 60-day prison term.

According to documents filed yesterday in federal court by attorney Mark H. Hanson, Hillbroom signed a plea agreement with the Palau government and entered a guilty plea last June 12.

Hanson is the Saipan counsel for Hillbroom in the latter's legal malpractice lawsuit filed in the District Court against his former counsels David J. Lujan and Barry Israel. The jury trial in this lawsuit will be on Feb. 6, 2018.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona wants to know the status of Hillbroom's criminal cases pending in Palau.

Manglona asked Hillbroom's new counsel, Rachel Dimitruk, to be prepared to advise the court and the parties in the lawsuit as to the status of Hillbroom's criminal cases at the conference on June 29, 2017.

According to court documents, Palau Associate Justice Lourdes Materne sentenced Hillbroom to five years of supervised probation with the conditions that he shall serve 60 days in jail, attend and complete an in-patient drug rehabilitation program, write a letter of apology, and pay a $2,000 fine and restitution in an amount to be determined by the Probation Office (if any).

Materne exonerated Hillbroom's bail of $25,000 cash in this matter.

In a separate order pertaining to Hillbroom's drug case, Materne issued an order last June 14 setting a hearing for Oct. 16, 2017 on Hillbroom's motion for production of discovery.

Hillbroom is one of the four DNA-proven children of the late business tycoon and DHL co-founder Larry Lee Hillblom. He was recaptured in Palau hours after he escaped from police custody on Feb. 9, 2016 just a few hours after he was arrested over the seizure of $160,000 worth of methamphetamine or "ice."

Hillbroom's name is spelled differently from DHL co-founder Hillblom. Hillbroom's mother, Kaelani Kinney, is Palauan.

Judiciary said it needs more staff

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

The CNMI Judiciary has met with the House Ways and Means Committee yesterday to discuss their proposed budget for the fiscal year 2018.

According to deputy director of courts Sonia Camacho, the newest court, the Drug Court, is in need of additional staff since they predict, "the numbers are growing."

"Right now, we have about 23 participants in the program," said Camacho, adding that drug court has noted indications of growing numbers in the near future.

"We need additional personnel to address the particular needs of that court," she said.

»Drug Court predicts growing number of participants

The Drug Court is looking to recruit about three more personnel to add to their team.

Among many other positions, the CNMI Judiciary is looking to hire a chief marshal as well as additional marshals for all three islands and additional probation officers.

Specifically, the Judiciary is looking to add two more probation officers while an additional two more were discussed during the budget hearing, making a total of four possible additions. Altogether, the CNMI Judiciary has 10 probation officers.

"[The committee members] listened intently and are very interested in what the judiciary branch has to offer to the people. Whether or not they are available to address all of them would be contingent to how they would deliberate on dispensing funds," said Camacho, adding that the committee has a "tough job ahead of them."

The Judiciary is asking for $8.3 million for FY 2018. Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' proposal is at $5.9 million, similar to what the Judiciary received for FY 2017. The Judiciary's requested budget proposal for FY 2017 was a little over $7 million.

"There's a significant difference of $2.3 million between their request and the governor's proposal. Thus, the committee has the arduous task of reviewing the Judiciary's request to see which of the $2.3 million in cuts will be higher in their list of priorities to be restored should additional funding become available during the budget process," said House Ways and Means Committee chair Rep. Angel Demapan (R-Saipan), adding that the committee was already aware of the need to fill critical positions in the CNMI Judiciary "to maintain a fully functional judiciary for the people of the Commonwealth."

Also included in the requested budget is funding for repairs and maintenance for the judicial complex on all three islands.

"The judicial complex requires immediate attention and funding to ensure that the facility is conducive and safe for individuals to enter on any given business day," said Demapan.

Prosecution rests after calling 10th witness in trial of ex-Rota cop

The prosecution rested yesterday after calling to the stand their 10th witness in the ongoing jury trial at Rota Courthouse of former Rota police officer Melvin Maratita Manglona.

Defense counsel Brien Sers Nicholas did not call any witness and moved for acquittal of the 49-year-old Manglona, *Saipan Tribune* learned.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho denied the motion.

The jurors went home at 4:30pm. They were instructed to return today, Thursday, at 8am for the continuation of the trial.

The parties' closing arguments and jury deliberations will be today, Thursday.

Chief prosecutor Michele Harris and assistant attorney general Teri Tenorio are prosecuting the case.

The government alleged that Manglona sexually abused a minor girl last July and Aug. 11, 2016. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

cancer

is the second leading cause of death in the CNMI*

Researchers suggest that no-inherited causes of cancer (lifestyle choices, choice of foods, physical activity levels) have a direct impact on our overall cancer risk. To reduce your cancer risk, eat a healthy diet, don't use tobacco, maintain a healthy weight, avoid risky behaviors, protect yourself from the sun, get immunized and see your doctor regularly. When you take control of your health, you are taking control of your future.

For more information in the CNMI, please contact the Comprehensive Cancer Control Program at 236-8727.
Brought to you by the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation Comprehensive Cancer Control Program under the Division of Public Health Non Communicable Disease Bureau through 100% federal funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

*CNMI Health and Vital Statistics Office

IPI tightens lawful employment enforcement at Garapan site

Individuals unauthorized to work cannot enter the multi-million-dollar Garapan casino-resort construction site with this latest move of Imperial Pacific International to further tighten its worksite enforcement in protecting employment opportunities for lawful workforce.

This development further affirms the commitment of Hong Kong-based investment giant to strictly enforce its well placed company policies, and implement measures that strengthen its compliance with local and federal laws and regulations that promotes fair and legal labor and immigration practices.

Last May 1, Imperial Pacific's security department implemented control over the construction site's security, tapping the services of IPS or Island Protection Services.

IPS is a Saipan-based security company. It was tapped to carry out the external security of the casino-resort construction project site.

Security within the Garapan construction project had previously been handled and managed by MCC International Saipan Ltd. Co., the main construction contractor.

For nearly two months now, the largest private sector employer in the Marianas has implemented standard operating procedures and guidelines together with the new security company, to ensure that all of Imperial Pacific workers, including the security contractors themselves, are lawfully employed.

And to further strengthen its own enforcement, Imperial Pacific also conducts regular random security checks on both its workers and that of the security company to ensure compliance.

Workers including contractors entering said premises are strictly required to show proper identification, among other security measures that were put in place.

Regular bi-weekly meetings are also held, as part of its constant work at reviewing its operating procedures.

"As a law-abiding corporate citizen, Imperial Pacific will continue to strictly follow appropriate local and federal statutes that promotes lawful employment," Imperial Pacific said. ***(PR)***

SHEFA now accepting applications

For all new, ongoing, and returning applicants, the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance program is now accepting applications for fall 2017. Application deadline is July 3, 2017, and deadline to submit all supporting documents is Sept. 30, 2017. Application and checklist can be downloaded from www.saipanshefa.net. For more information, visit the SHEFA website, email saipanshefa@gmail.com, or call the office directly at (670) 233-5995. Applications can be scanned and emailed, submitted to the SHEFA office, or faxed to (670) 235-5996. ***(PR)***

HKE president appeals to Ninth Circuit

Hong Kong Entertainment (Overseas) Investments Ltd. president Kwan Man is appealing to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit from the federal court's ruling that ordered him and HKE to pay $191,400 in civil penalty to the U.S. Labor Secretary for their willful and repeat violations of the overtime provision of the Fair Labor Standards Act during the operation of the now defunct Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino.

Man, through counsel Bruce Berline, notified the U.S. District Court for the NMI on Saturday of his appeal to the Ninth Circuit.

Man wants the 9th Circuit to reverse U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona's ruling issued last May 23.

No other details were provided in the notice of appeal.

Manglona granted the U.S. Labor Secretary's and co-defendants' motion for summary judgment as to all three claims filed by the Tinian Dynasty owner, HKE, and HKE president Man.

The judge ruling also affirmed the U.S. Department of Labor's Administrative Review Board's final decision issued on Nov. 25, 2014 that assessed such civil money penalty against HKE and Man.

Manglona concluded that, as a matter of law, the compliance agreement entered by HKE and the Labor Secretary did not preclude the imposition of civil money penalties for HKE's violations of the overtime provisions of the FLSA.

On Aug. 31, 2007, Terrence Trotter, then-assistant district director for the Hawaii District Labor's Wage and Hour Division (administrator) assessed the civil money penalties against HKE and Raymond Chan, then-financial controller for Tinian Dynasty and signatory to the compliance agreement, for willful and repeated violations of the FLSA during the period from March 16, 2007 to May 26, 2007.

On Feb. 4, 2011, the administrator assessed the civil money penalties for the same FLSA violations against Man.

In December 2014, HKE and Man filed the lawsuit against then-U.S. Labor Secretary Thomas E. Perez and several other Labor officials for allegedly violating their due process right over their assessment of civil penalty of $191,400. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

HK passenger found concealing 'ice' pleads guilty

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A Hong Kong passenger who was found concealing methamphetamine or "ice" in his luggage during an inspection by Customs inspectors at the Francisco-C. Ada-Saipan International Airport last Thursday, entered a guilty plea in federal court yesterday.

At the scheduled detention hearing yesterday afternoon, the parties informed U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona that defendant Nairu Li signed a plea deal with the U.S. government.

Li, 45, pleaded guilty to an information charging him with one count of unlawful importation of a controlled substance. The offense carries a maximum penalty of 20 years imprisonment.

A complaint was originally filed charging the same offense against the defendant.

Manglona accepted Li's guilty plea and set the sentencing for Oct. 20, 2017 at 9am.

Attorney Colin Thompson is court-appointed counsel for Li.

Assistant U.S. attorney Garth Backe, counsel for the U.S. government, said according to the factual basis of the plea agreement Li brought from Hong Kong over 5 grams of "ice" hidden in his luggage at the airport last Thursday.

U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration Task Force Officer Raymond M. Renguul revealed that Li arrived on a Hong Kong Airlines flight from Hong Kong.

Renguul in the complaint disclosed that the inspector became suspicious after noticing that Li was visibly shaking as he was removing a cigarette pack from his jacket.

Renggul said inspectors found "ice" hidden in an orange tube-like container placed in Li's luggage.



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Military training at FDM

ASAN, Guam—The military will conduct training at Farallon de Medinilla during the following dates and times:

- June 29 from 8:30 to 11:55pm
- June 30, from 8 to 11:55pm

It is recommended the public, fishermen, and marine tour operators monitor the Coast Guard broadcast notice to mariners for advisories.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla will be in a 12-nautical mile radius of the island. ***(PR)***

Notaries reminded to submit journals

The Office of the Attorney General is reminding all notaries public commissioned in the Commonwealth that they are required to submit a copy of their journals on or before June 30, 2017. The law requires notaries public to submit their journal copies each year by June 30 or face sanctions, including revoking the notary public commission, or the assessment of a fine of $100 to $500. For more information, contact Esther San Nicolas Nesbitt at the OAG's Civil Division at 237-7500, or through email at esther_nesbitt@cnmioag.org. ***(PR)***

NBG sets concert, fireworks on July 4

SANTA RITA, Guam—U.S. Naval Base Guam will host its next open-base event, the Freedom Rocks Festival, on July 4 at Polaris Point. This free event is open to the Guam community. Armed Forces Entertainment will present a concert by the alternative rock band Papa Roach, starting at 7pm. Fireworks will commence soon after the concert. There will be static displays of Navy equipment, a car show, rides for kids, food vendors (from various American and Chamorro eateries), and various beverages (including water, soda, and beer). Gates at Polaris Point open at 3pm, and the event starts at 4pm. A valid ID (such as a Guam driver's license, except children under 16) is required to enter Polaris Point for this free event—all patrons must be U.S. citizens. ***(PR)***

GMS registration

Green Meadow School is now accepting registration for new and returning students for first to eighth grade for school year 2017-2018. Visit the GMS business office in Chalan Kiya or Gualo Rai and pick up the registration form. We are also opening registration for first grade at the Gualo Rai branch. For inquiries call 235-2185, 233-6452 or 483-6452. ***(PR)***

OES now accepting registrations

Oleai Elementary School is now accepting registration for new and returning students for school year 2017-2018. Parents and guardians of returning students are also asked to update registration and all supporting documents. Registration forms are available at our main office. For more information or inquiry, call our main office at 664-3942. ***(PR)***

MHS report cards now available

Report cards for Marianas High School students are available. Registration for new incoming and returning students for Marianas High School is ongoing until July 31, 2017. Copies of all required documents must be attached before your child can be registered. Call 664-3800/01 or visit www.marianashighschool.com for more information. ***(PR)***

KHS registration

All parents and guardians of Kagman High School students are being informed that KHS is open for enrollment and accepting registrations all summer. It is ideal to get your registration submitted ASAP to get your child scheduled in the optimum classes they need to graduate! So far we have received less than 150 registrations from returning students. We have also received very few registration forms from incoming freshmen! Please don't delay, register your child for school today. Registration can be printed from https://goo.gl/x2KvcL. ***(PR)***

METEOROLOGIST

From Page 1

mal typhoon.

"If we have four years exactly like this year, one of those four years we get a minimal typhoon," the meteorologist said.

Guard is conducting a two-day annual National Weather Service Tropical Cyclone, Disaster Preparedness, and Climate Workshop that kicked off yesterday at the Emergency Operations Center in Capital Hill.

Guard said although it's good news, the CNMI should be ready because it is not certain which one of those four years the Commonwealth would get hit.

He said maybe every seven to eight years, the CNMI might get strong typhoons.

"We expect less activity in La Nina year and more activity in El Nino years. We're kind in a year we're bordering on El Nino and neutral," Guard said.

He said there is a good chance the CNMI won't get hit this year.

Guard said the Marianas is in the part of the world where it can get a typhoon in any month of the year.

"There is a lot of uncertainties associated. We don't know if there is gonna be a direct hit. We don't know exactly how strong it's gonna be," he said.

Guard said for example, Typhoon Soudelor was rapidly intensifying as it came ashore.

"We didn't have deaths, not too many injuries. People for the most part were prepared. We have a good system set up and people were pretty well prepared," he said.

With respect to the two-day training, Guard said the workshop really covers just about everything that is hazards both from the atmosphere and the oceans.

"We are talking about typhoons. We are talking about rip currents. We are talking about the typhoon program that we have, the products that we put out, how those products should be used, the characteristics of typhoons," he said.

Guard said he will also be talking about what causes the weather of the CNMI so people have some understanding of it.

"When they look at the satellite picture on the TV, they do know what's going on," he said.

Guard will also discuss, among other things, about tsunami, earthquakes as well as rip currents, which is the No.1 killer in the Mariana Islands.

Emergency Operations Center manager Joey Dela Cruz said the tropical cyclone disaster preparedness and climate workshop is an annual training that NWS Guam's Guard brings in to the CNMI.

Dela Cruz said in the past they were focused on government employees or participants.

"This is the first year that I reach out and try to get majority of the participants from the private sector," he said.

Dela Cruz said as they saw in Soudelor, the services from the private sector was much needed.

"So for them understanding the technical side of the characteristics of a tropical cyclone it's only gonna better our partnership and relationship with the government and the private sector," he said.

HOSPITAL

From Page 1

with these nurses, whose CW-1 permits expire on July 1, 2017, is we submitted their employment petitions last April 10, 2017 to USCIS with the objective of getting the nurses' CW-1 visa renewed to allow them to work from Oct. 1, 2017 until Sept. 30, 2018.

"We have evidence that shows USCIS received the applications last April 10. The problem is the checks haven't been cashed and basically there is no receipt."

Knowing how critical and vital the positions are of the nurses in healthcare in the CNMI, CHCC filed a "bridge' petition to USCIS last May 25, 2017. The timeframe is from July 2 to Sept. 30, 2017.

The objective of the bridge petition is to shorten the gap between the current expiration of the CW-1 visas on July 1 and the new permit period for these 18 nurses that will start in October 2017. In other words, if the bridge petition was allowed, the 18 nurses would have had continuous work and not disrupt the operations in the hospital.

"The petition was rejected by USCIS early in June 2017. Weeks later, USCIS came out with a 240-day relief to CW-1 visa holders and we immediately sought that," said Muña.

"Our understanding is the USCIS needs the receipts from the employment petitions filed so that the nurses can avail of the 240-day extension. Again we filed in April, gave check payments, we have proof that they received the applications, and now the missing link here, the missing factor are those receipts."

In order for the nurses to feel safe and secure with their jobs, Muña said "We are now simply asking USCIS to look for the box where the applications are, cash the checks for them to be able to give us a receipt so our nurses can acquire the 240-day extension."

The CHCC and the nurses also urged USCIS to inform the U.S. Embassy in Manila about the 240-day CW-1 extension, not only for their benefit, but for other CW-1 visa holders from the Philippines.

"Another big concern is if they stay longer than July 1, we have some indication from the Philippines and other workers that the U.S. embassy in the Philippines does not recognize the 240-day extension given by USCIS to CW-1 visa holders. In other words, they will be considered 'over-stayers' and there is a risk for these nurses of not being able to come back. There has to be coordination between the USCIS and the U.S. embassy in the Philippines," Muña said

"It is a serious decision, The fact that no decision has been made is really affecting us. We have done our part. We have submitted our application in April 10. We paid the fees they have not cashed it. All we need from them is their action on the matter and we are staying hopeful," added Muña.

BEIJING

From Page 1

bringing to the CNMI.

"We are excited and looking forward to showcasing the beauty of the CNMI more to the Chinese community and we welcome them to the CNMI."

Saipan Tribune tried to get a statement from CPA but they have yet to respond as of press time.

Last June 13, CPA adopted a resolution suspending new international flights to the CNMI for 60 days. The administration of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and CPA will use the 60 days supposedly to assess the current state of the CNMI's infrastructure's capacity to accommodate the rapid increase in visitor arrival.

Last June 21, Beijing Air sued CPA and its executive director Christopher S. Tenorio from preventing the company from accessing the Francisco C. Ada-Saipan International Airport based upon the resolution by the CPA board.

Beijing Air asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to issue an injunction that would stop CPA and Tenorio from enforcing CPA board resolution that suspends new international flights into the CNMI for 60 days.

CPA released an order last Friday saying it stands by its decision to uphold the resolution and that they will await a decision from the U.S. Department of Transportation.

On Monday, Beijing Air voluntarily dropped the suit against the CPA and Tenorio. The petition to dismiss stated that that the parties have reached an agreement and will file a stipulation that will execute the dismissal of the case.

"Beijing Air is looking forward to this venture and is pleased that CPA reconsidered its previous decision," Guidotti added.

LIBDAY

From Page 1

winds and heavy rain.

After several attempts to conduct the opening ceremony, Mother Nature finally cooperated with the festivities Tuesday.

The weather threatened to push back the ceremony again as it started to rain at around 5:30pm, 30 minutes before the scheduled start of the ceremony.

The rain finally slowed down to a trickle at around 6:15pm and completely stopped at around 6:20pm. The committee then pushed through with the ceremony with the weather thankfully cooperating.

Saipan Mayor David M. Aptang also announced that the Liberation Day festivities will be extended to July 8.

The original plan was to end the festivities on July 4, ending it with the parade but because of the weather conditions, vendors were not able to maximize their revenue and actually lost more than they gained.

Because of the circumstances, Apatang decided to extend the festivities another four days.

The grand opening Tuesday night was highlighted by the introduction of the 2017 Liberation Day Royal Court candidates and the introduction of the 2017 Liberation Day committee, which organized this year's event.

The Liberation Day Royal Court was presented to the public as they paraded the stage in their sashes and gowns. The candidates each shared with the audience what bird they would be representing.

Mikeangela Charfuros is representing the Tinian monarch or Chichirikan, Mikaella Dahil is representing the white tern or Chunge', Chloe Fergurgur is representing the kingfisher or Sihek, Peyton Gomez is representing the Rota bridled white eye or Nosa, Kaila De Guzman is representing the Saipan golden white eye or Canario, Maxine Lopez is representing the white-throated ground dove or Paluman Apaka', Riannalyn Manabat is representing the Mariana swiftlet or Chachaguakm, and Carlicia Ruben is representing the rufus fantail or Na'abak.

During his speech, Apatang also acknowledged how honored he was to be working with the newly appointed Liberation Day committee.

"I am joined by a new team this year and I am honored to be collaborating with an awesome team," said Apatang. "They are young, very energetic, and very precocious."

During the grand opening ceremony, Apatang also blew on a conch shell that represents a gathering call.

This type of gathering call was done during ancient Chamorro times and was usually done by the chief of the village.

Because Apatang is the mayor of the island of Saipan, it was only fitting that he was chosen to initiate the gathering call commencing the Liberation Day festivities.

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The Marianas named 'Best Island Destination'

The Marianas added another destination accolade to its growing list of awards in China on June 7, 2017.

The Marianas was named "Best Island Destination" of the year by Travel Weekly China at its China Travel & Meetings Industry Awards gala at Peace Hotel in Shanghai.

Travel Weekly and TravelWeekly.com are among the most influential B2B news resources for the travel industry, providing news, analysis and research for travel professionals.

"It's incredibly rewarding for the Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) to have industry leaders such as Travel Weekly to recognize The Marianas as a premiere travel destination," said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. "Obviously, we are doing a lot of things right to garner this award. Now it's a matter of building upon that success, and that will include the government, private sector and community addressing the many matters still needing attention to keep The Marianas on top of the list."

So far this fiscal year, The Marianas has received 146,159 visitors from China, comprising 34 percent of all visitors to the islands. China is the second largest source market this fiscal year, after South Korea.

Since their beginning in 2002, these awards have grown to become an industry-leading awards recognition of "the best enterprises in China's travel, meeting and incentive industry." After being nominated, The Marianas was chosen by readers over a three-month selection period. ***(PR)***



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Marianas Visitors Authority deputy managing director Judy Torres, center, receives the "Best Island Destination" award presented to The Marianas on June 7, 2017, at the China Travel & Meetings Industry Awards gala in Shanghai, China. Pictured from left are MVA marketing specialist Rachel Song; MVA Travel Trade manager Silver Xu; MVA deputy managing director Judy Torres; Dynasty Holiday deputy general manager Peter Pan; and Century Tours marketing director Daniel Cai.

QUITUGUA
FAMILIAN KARABAO
QUITUGUA
Family Reunion
(Familian Karabao)

JOAQUIN DELA CRUZ QUITUGUA
1. Juana Norita Quitugua
2. Antonio Quitugua Norita
3. Venancio Quitugua Norita
4. Juan Quitugua Norita
5. Antonio Rios Quitugua
6. Gabriel Rios Quitugua
7. Daniel Rios Quitugua
8. Rafael Rios Quitugua
9. Jesus Rios Quitugua
10. David Rios Quitugua

ROSA DELA CRUZ QUITUGUA
1. Rosa Quitugua
2. Dolores Quitugua
3. Adela Quitugua Cepeda
4. Crispin Quitugua
5. Maria Quitugua
6. Remedios Quitugua
7. Francisco Quitugua Aguon
8. Marcelina Quitugua Aguon
9. Esteban Quitugua Aguon
10. Angelica Quitugua Aguon
11. Jose Quitugua

MARIA DELA CRUZ QUITUGUA
1. Juan Quitugua
2. Juana Quitugua
3. Antonia Quitugua
4. Jose Quitugua Borja

JUAN DELA CRUZ QUITUGUA
1. Florencio Sablan Quitugua
2. Faustina Norita Quitugua
3. Nieves Sablan Quitugua
4. Ignacia Quitugua
5. Anunciacion Quitugua
6. Angelina Sablan Quitugua

DATE: Saturday, July 1, 2017
MASS: San Jose, Church, Saipan
TIME: 9:00 AM

Gathering will be held at the Garapan Central Park after mass

For more information, please contact Carla at 789-9333 or Ton at 785-7776

Si Yu'us Ma'ase
KARABAO REUNION COMMITTEE

Vino Bar offers a taste of Spain



KIMBERLY BAUTISTA

Aqua Resort Club F&B operations manager Rom Manzon carves the featured appetizer that the Vino Bar offers during the Tiempo Del Vino.

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Vino Bar located in the Aqua Resort Club has successfully captured the ambiance of Spain through its imported quality ham, quality wine, and the overall interior of the bar.

The small Spanish-inspired bar has gone above and beyond to bring the authentic experience of Spain to the people of Saipan

The Vino Bar offers an array of carefully picked wines that will surely give the illusion of a mini vacation to where the wines originated.

The Vino bar offers a special promo called the Tiempo Del Vino every Thursday.

The Tiempo Del Vino offers selected wine from places like Spain, Chile, and California.

A total selection of seven classic wines is available to the public and is only offered during the Tiempo Del Vino.

The Vino Bar will be offering ham that has been pasteurized and cured in the healthiest pastures of the mountains of Spain for the longest period of time during Tiempo Del Vino.

The ham is served as an appetizer. The bar charges $8 an ounce. Although it is pricey, the ham is a burst of flavor and is a delicacy in Spain as well as on the island.

The significance of this is its preparation. The ham is bathed in flavorful fat and is left to melt away for a period of time to intensify its flavor.

The Vino Bar offers the Tiempo Del vino for everyone above the age of 21.

The bar offers a special of unlimited wine with a side of special appetizers of your choice during Tiempo Del Vino.

The Tiempo Del Vino is only available at the Aqua Resort Club's Vino Bar every Thursday from 5pm to 9pm and will be followed by happy hour throughout the rest of the evening.

Palacios signs two local bills into law

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Senate President Arnold Palacios (R-Saipan), who is currently serving as the acting governor of the CNMI in the absence of both Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Lt. Gov. Victor B. Hocog, signed two local laws last Monday, June 26.

Both laws, which are appropriation laws, are recognized as Saipan Local Law 20-03 and SLL 20-04.

SLL 20-03 would re-appropriate funding from SLL 19-08 to the paving of Toson Drive in Afetnas, amounting to $10,759.92. Also included in SLL 20-03 is the re-appropriation of $190,000 allotted under SLL 19-23 to several roadwork projects, including $140,000 for the repair, drainage, and/or de-surfacing of Tuturam Road, $10,000 for the paving of Toson Drive in Afetnas, and $40,000 for the anti-skid pavement on As Perdido Road.

SLL 20-04 re-appropriates funding totaling $588,037 for numerous projects and activities within Saipan.

A total of $150,000 is appropriated for the 2017 Liberation Day festivities with expenditure authority assigned to the Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, $20,000 for the "Five Pillars of the Carolinians Community in the CNMI" under the Carolinian Affairs Office with expenditure authority of the secretary of Finance, and $80,000 for the Joeten Kiyu Public Library for the purchase of books, a vehicle, and the tinting of the library windows.

Another $50,000 is appropriated for the Developmental Disabilities for Commonwealth Respite Service Program, or CRSP, operations, while $39,394 is appropriated to the Criminal Justice Planning Agency for the purchase of a vehicle. The law also now earmarks $55,326 for the NMI Museum of History and Culture's repair and maintenance, among many others.

Rentalcars.com bestows Customer Favorite Award to Toyota Rent A Car Saipan

TAMUNING, Guam—Rentalcars.com headquartered in Manchester, United Kingdom, recently awarded Atkins Kroll, (Saipan) Inc., doing business as Toyota Rent A Car, its 2016 Customer Favorite Award at Francisco C. Ada-Saipan International Airport.

Ian Brown, president of Rentalcars.com, cited that customers through survey scores and comments praised Toyota Rent A Car at Saipan International Airport for their attention to detail in delivering outstanding customer service. Brown went on to thank the Toyota Rent A Car team "for giving so many people a great rental experience".

Atkins Kroll operates six Toyota Rent A Car locations in Guam and two Toyota Rent a Car locations on Saipan.

For more information, contact Ernie Galito at (671) 648-8400 or ernie.galito@AK-guam.com. ***(PR)***

$586K modification study for Tinian Harbor set to begin

With the official receipt of grant funding from the Department of Defense Office of Economic Adjustment (OEA), the modification study, which assesses environmental impacts and creates a feasibility of navigational features for the Tinian Harbor, will continue to move forward.

According to the administrator for the Office of Grants Management and State Clearinghouse Epi Cabrera, last month, "the OEA notified the CNMI of the award and we worked expeditiously to submit the required financial documents for the immediate disbursement of funds," he said.

Through a grant co-authored by the Office of the Governor and the CNMI Civil Military Liaison Office, in partnership with the CNMI Office of Grants Management (OGM) & State Clearinghouse, the US Army Corp of Engineers can move forward with the study.

Cabrera added that the funding will go a long way in ensuring the completion of the Tinian Harbor study.

"Earlier this month, we noted the importance of this improvement to our infrastructure and to the Tinian community. I thank the Department of Finance and Division of Treasury for assisting with the wire transfer to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and we extend our appreciation to OEA, the Harbor Task Force and the Office of the Governor," he said.

The Tinian Harbor will undergo a series of environmental, economic, and structural analyses by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to determine the best possible options to improve harbor navigational features.

According to Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, the improvements made to the harbor will reduce risks and impacts to public and private stakeholders and its surrounding coral reefs and sea life.

Torres noted that the fragile state of the breakwater prompted immediate action to continue the study and that addressing the deteriorating breakwater is critical for the Tinian Harbor to achieve installation sustainment.

Torres expressed that the grant award will complement current plans to revitalize the Commonwealth.

"The Tinian Harbor is a step closer to creating more economic opportunities. I want to reaffirm to the people of Tinian that it is my hope that the study will validate and lock in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' direct participation and long term commitment in the development of navigation improvements at Tinian Harbor, similar to the Rota West Harbor," Torres said.

Lt. Gov. Victor B. Hocog, chairman of the Rota and Tinian Harbor Task Force, expressed his sincere appreciation to OGM and OEA for their collaboration, emphasizing the historical and economical necessity of our harbors.

"The Tinian Harbor Modification Study seeks to help our entire community, and we look forward to the continued progress and results of the study," said Hocog. ***(PR)***

SSHS registration ongoing

Registration for new and continuing students of Saipan Southern High School for school year 2017-2018 is ongoing. Please stop by the school to pick up registration form. If you have any questions, please contact the school at 664-4000. ***(PR)***

Love starts @ the Table



BIBA Celebrate your health!

Share your colorful, healthy meals with fruits and vegetables on Facebook and Instagram with the hash tag

#loveonaplatecnmi

This message is supported by the Department of Family Medicine and Community Health at the University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine under the Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The contents of this message is from the CHCC-CNMI REACH and do not necessarily represent the official views of the CDC.



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WIC WOMEN • INFANTS • CHILDREN

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

CHCC-PSA-17-001

This is to inform the general public that the CNMI Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program 2018 State Plan is now available for review and public comments from June 26-30, 2017. Interested members of the general public may review the CNMI WIC 2018 State Plan at the WIC Program's Administrative Office located in Upper Navy Hill, Mayoria Ave. Building N25. Our Office hours are from 7:30 am to 4:30 pm (Monday-Friday). All public comments must be submitted in writing to the WIC Program Administrator at the same office no later than close of business on June 30, 2017.

/s/ **Esther L. Muna**
Chief Executive Office

/s/ **Erin Angela Camacho**
CNMI WIC Program Administrator

UNITED STATES
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

NOTICE OF COUNCIL MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 12, the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities hereby gives notice that it will hold its 4th Quarter General Membership Meeting on June 30, 2017, from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm at the LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort – Caladium Hall.

AGENDA

I. Call to Order
II. Roll Call
III. Review & Adoption of Agenda of June 30, 2017
IV. Review & Adoption of Meeting Minutes of June 29, 2017
V. Action Items
  a. Review/Approve of a State Run Alternative Financing Program
VI. Reports
  a. Chairperson
  b. State Plan Committee Chairperson
  c. Fiscal Committee Chairperson
  d. Executive Director
VII. OLD Business
  a. Youth Conference
  b. CRSP Update – Volunteer Respite Program Webinar
  c. Wellness Recovery Action Plan Seminar 1 and Peer Worker Training
  d. A Transition Guide to Postsecondary Education and Employment for Students and Youth with Disabilities
VIII. New Business
  a. Circles Model
  b. National Technical Assistance Center on Transition – Capacity Building Institute
  c. Seating & Wheeled Mobility Service Training Workshop
  d. Transition Conference
  e. Developmental Disability & Employment Awareness Month
XI. Miscellaneous
XII. Next Meeting
XIII. Adjournment

Note: Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 13(a) 7, the Council may vote to meet in Executive Session.

In accordance to the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend this meeting and require special accommodations are requested to call the Council 5 days in advance at 664-7000. The Public is welcome to submit written or 3 minutes oral comments regarding the agenda above.

/s/ Efren Nicholas
Chairperson

This ad was paid for by funds from the DD Basic Grant Part A (Administrative)

CNMI readies catastrophic typhoon plan

The CNMI Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Federal Emergency Management Agency conducted a Course of Action Brief for the 2017 CNMI Typhoon Readiness Catastrophic Plan for CNMI senior leaders at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center on Capital Hill last Friday.

The comprehensive COA brief identified the priorities, goals and objectives outlined by the CNMI and FEMA Core Planning Team and established by key senior leaders. Catastrophic plans are part of a cycle of preparedness and help guide how responders are organized and equipped as well as ensure a global understanding of roles and responsibilities described in the plan.

This is the first official catastrophic plan for the CNMI. The development of the plan will continue into the fall of 2017 with a final approval pending by the end of the year.

"The Course of Action Brief allows CNMI and FEMA leadership to discuss and approve essential methods and effective response strategies needed for the development, validation, and delivery of a joint plan," said FEMA Region IX Acting Regional Administrator Dr. Ahsha Tribble.

Topics discussed at the brief include: public policy, critical infrastructure, commodity distribution, crisis communications, and incident management. All of the topics will be discussed at the strategic and policy level in order to identify challenges and solutions, foster collaboration, and build a common understanding of roles and responsibilities during a disaster.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' authorized representative, Virginia Villagomez, noted that the Course of Action Brief marked a significant step forward in the CNMI's first catastrophic readiness plan.

"The approved concept of operations from the briefing demonstrates the CNMI's commitment toward a more effective and efficient response to future disasters. The collaboration between the CNMI and FEMA so far has been very productive, and we are looking forward to the completion of the plan this fall," said Villagomez.

Special Assistant for Homeland Security and Emergency Management Gerald Deleon Guerrero added that the development of the plan has been positive.

"The steps both the CNMI and FEMA have taken so far have been very positive and provides for strategies that take into account our vulnerability to severe and bipolar weather conditions," said Deleon Guerrero.

For more information, contact the CNMI Office of the press secretary Kevin Bautista at (670) 237-2234 or via email at kevin.bautista@gov.mp or FEMA Public Affairs Officer,

Veronica Verde at (626) 646-6813 or via email at veronica.verde@fema.dhs.gov. ***(PR)***



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Course of Action Brief for the 2017 CNMI Typhoon Readiness Catastrophic Plan was conducted for CNMI senior leaders at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center on Capital Hill last June 23.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Participants of the Course of Action Brief held last June 23 at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center on Capital Hill pose for a photo.

Farrell book release and signing at AMP today

Local historian Don Farrell will hold a book release and signing of the Korean and Chinese language editions of *Saipan, a Brief History* today, June 29, 10am at the American Memorial Park Visitors Center.

Last year, with encouragement from the Marianas Visitors Authority and Pacific History Parks (American Memorial Park, Saipan, War in the Pacific Park, Guam) and members of Chinese and Korean communities of Saipan, Farrell and Micronesian Productions undertook the translation of an updated edition of *Saipan, a Brief History* in Korean and Chinese.

This work fulfills two basic needs: First, it will provide the local Korean and Chinese community with an accurate and up-to-date history of Saipan in their own language, one they can share with their children. Second, it will support efforts made by the Marianas Visitors Authority to ensure that tour guides have an accurate history of Saipan. Third, and most important to Micronesian Productions, it will give our visitors a glimpse into the history of Saipan that they can take it home and proudly display on their coffee tables and share with family and friends.

Farrell is also very proud that the Korean translation was done by Joo (Judy) Hee Kim, a 2004 graduate of the Northern Marianas Academy, Saipan.

Pacific History Parks has agreed to give a one-day 15-percent discount on these new books, in any of the three languages. Case lots of 20 will be available for public and private institutions.

MVA is providing light refreshments.

Farrell said in 1987 he and his wife, Carmen Muna Dela Cruz, amoved to Tinian and he began work on a new historical series, beginning, of course, with *Tinian: A Brief History*, (1988), followed by *Saipan: A Brief History*, (1992), *Guam: A Brief History,* (1994), and *Rota: A Brief History*, (2003).

Farrell extends his sincerest gratitude to all the public agencies and private companies that have supported this effort: Pacific History Parks, the Marianas Visitors Bureau, Mayor of Saipan David M. Apatang, Joeten Enterprises, Susupe and Garapan; Bestseller Books, Saipan and Guam; Century Tours, Saipan Travel, Tan Holdings, Let's Go Saipan,Kanoa Resort and Fiesta Resort; Al Pacific, LLC., I Love Saipan, Garapan, Paseo de Marianas, Managaha, Hyatt Hotel and Kensington Hotel; Steven Ambrose Tours, and Grandvrio Resort.

Micronesian Productions was born in 1981 with the publication of the first edition of the Pictorial History of Guam series: *The Americanization of Guam: 1898-1899*, followed by *Liberation-1944*, (1984); the second edition of *The Americanization of Guam: 1898-1918*, (1986), and later by *The Sacrifice of Guam: 1919-1943*, (1991). ***(PR)***



Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXVII, Issue No. 128

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

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The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Trump's Russian reversal

President Donald Trump's inconsistency may be his only consistency, but even by the standard he's set for abrupt reversals during his first five months in office, the president's recent proclamations on election meddling raise hypocrisy to nose-bleed heights. Lest we bury the lead, here's the real upshot: For the first time, Trump has acknowledged Russian interference in the last election and is none too happy about it.

What could have motivated the nation's commander-in-chief to finally admit to what the nation's leading intelligence experts have been saying for months (albeit in a backdoor manner)? Was it the need to hold the Russian hackers accountable? Was it the troubling potential for continued interference in U.S. and other Western elections? Or might it have been a report in a publication Trump often criticizes as a purveyor of "fake news" that details the failure of President Barack Obama and his administration to take stronger action against that interference prior to Nov. 8?

Ding, ding, ding, if you guessed that last one — and the opportunity it gave President Trump to rail against the Obama administration — you would be correct.

Beginning last Friday on Twitter and clearly reacting to a report released that day by The Washington Post, Trump complained that the Obama administration "knew far in advance of November 8th about election meddling by Russia. Did nothing about it. WHY?"

He said something similar to Fox News in an interview aired Sunday. "To me — in other words, the question is, if he had the information, why didn't he do something about it? He should have done something about it."

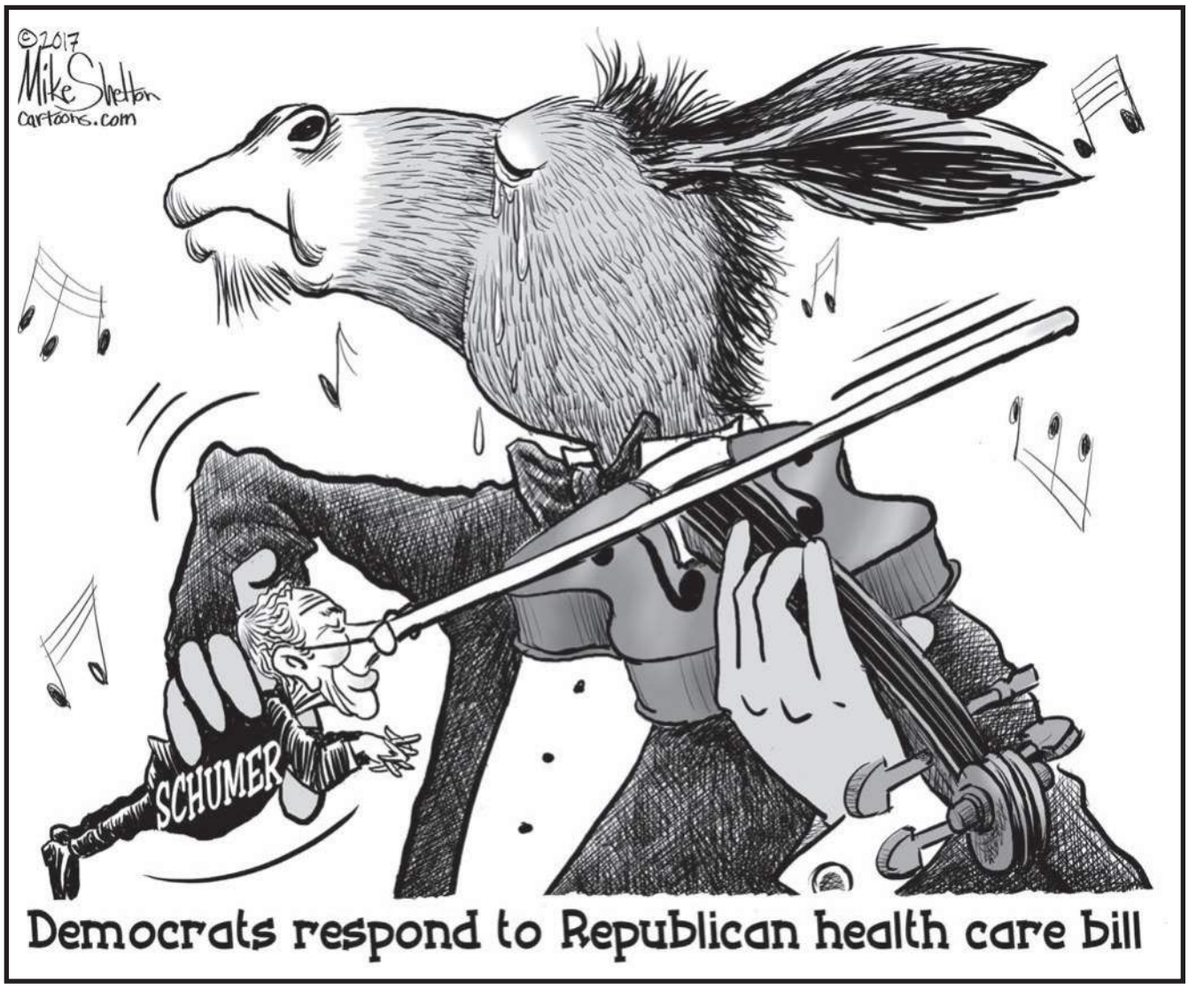
President Trump reportedly received the same information after he was sworn into office, but what did he do about it? He has stayed silent on the subject (including when similar antics took place prior to the recent French election), or, when he has spoken out, he's criticized efforts to investigate that interference and resisted talks about ratcheting up sanctions on Russia for its behavior. If anything, Trump has acted like a willing accomplice — whether intentionally or not — through his words and actions.

But let's roll back the clock and imagine what the response might have been like if President Obama had announced before the election that the Russians had launched a cyberwar to help Trump and that tough sanctions needed to be imposed immediately. Does anyone seriously believe Trump would have welcomed that assessment even if he had been given the same classified intelligence? Remember, the hacking wasn't publicly acknowledged by U.S. intelligence officials until January when that material was declassified. The Trump campaign machine would have declared the president a partisan tool of Hillary Clinton. House Republicans might even have considered impeachment proceedings for Obama's own "meddling" in the election.

In retrospect, President Obama's failure to take stronger action against Russia was a bad call. "I feel like we sort of choked," was how one anonymous former senior Obama aide famously described the situation to The Post, and there is no shortage of Democrats who feel the same way.

They include Rep. Adam Schiff, the top Democrat on the House Intelligence Committee, who has pointed out that just complaining privately to Russian President Vladimir Putin,

See TRUMP on Next Page



Loser of a health-care bill will haunt GOP

By MICHAEL A. LINDENBERGER
The Dallas Morning News



Michael A. Lindenberger is a member of The Dallas Morning News *editorial board. Readers may email him at mlindenberger@dallasnews.com*

The big problem with the Republicans' new health plan isn't the secrecy with which it was written. Nor even the ridiculous speed with which they now plan to rush it through the Senate.

The problem is that Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and his lieutenants are just plum scared.

How else to explain the jacked-up way the party is pretending the health care repeal is really just a budget reconciliation measure, rather than a real live piece of legislation that will strip health insurance from millions of Americans? A budget reconciliation measure requires only a simple majority to pass and can't be filibustered.

They know that they don't have the votes to pass such a dog pile of a bill under normal rules.

That is, since they only have 52 Republicans in the Senate, they feel they'd have to bend too far to write a bill that would persuade eight Democrats to vote for it, enough to avoid a filibuster.

What's wrong with that?

Well nearly everything. But let's start with the big-picture basics.

The reason the Senate operates differently from the House is because the Founders reasoned there was advantage in having at least one of the chambers of Congress be deliberative. The reason the Senate requires a 60-vote majority to get past a filibuster is because, especially on very large changes to our laws, there used to be a feeling that requiring a majority party to work hard to win over at least some of the other team would ensure that the bill was thoroughly hashed out.

Rep. Michael Burgess talked with The Dallas Morning News editorial board this week. He talked sense about all sorts of things. But when he said that the Senate decision to operate under reconciliation rules had limited the lawmakers' flexibility when working on the Obamacare repeal bills, I asked him why his party had decided to go that route.

His answer: That's how Obama and the Democrats operated when they rammed the Affordable Care Act down the Republicans' throats, and so that's how the Republicans are going to ram down their replacement bill.

Ain't Washington great?

Except of course, in this particular case it doesn't even happen to be true. Not even remotely.

The Democrats pulled a number of legislative tricks toward the end to get their bill past the 60-vote threshold. And it's true that by the time the final version made it to the floor, there were plenty of lawmakers who hadn't read the whole bill.

So disgusted were certain members of the minority party that they loudly declared that if ever the political fortunes changed, and they were in the majority, they would run things with far less secrecy.

Actually, by "certain members" I mean McConnell, who promptly forgot about that pledge.

But long before the Democrats were busy pushing their bill through at the end, they had held plenty of open hearings about the bill. Hearings that were open to both parties and the public.

Senate Republicans have, by contrast, held only "listening sessions" open only to Republican lawmakers.

But as I said, it's the not the secrecy that's telling here. It's the craven politics.

Were Democrats hard-pressed to pass their bill all those years ago? You betcha. They spent a year arguing about it, drafting it, and fighting over whether the moderates or the liberals would win. You might remember that liberal Democrats were for a single-payer system, and the moderates believed they'd only get 60 votes if they adopted the centrist market-based approach pioneered by Mitt Romney in Massachusetts.

Obama sided with the moderates and that's what passed.

But notice: The Democrats worked overtime because they needed a bill to pass with 60 votes. Republicans, who were outvoted in the presidential election and who lost seats to Democrats, had a choice. They could have tried to pass a bill that would have peeled off eight Democrats and created something of a bipartisan replacement for Obamacare.

But they didn't try. Is it because they lacked the votes? Or the guts?

It's not easy to say. But when they do pass this loser of a bill, if they pass it, they are going to wear it come 2018. They might find that what they hoped would be a life vest is really an anchor tied tight around their shoulders.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

The mystery of making babies

By EDWARD DOLNICK
Los Angeles Times



Edward Dolnick is the author of "The Seeds of Life: From Aristotle to da Vinci, from Sharks' Teeth to Frogs' Pants, the Long and Strange Quest to Discover Where Babies Come From." He wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

By way of a break in this polarized era, let's briefly consider the single topic that men and women of every culture and nationality have happily agreed on, from the beginning of time to this very minute — babies are good. But until astonishingly recent times, nearly every aspect of where babies come from was utterly mysterious.

The titans of the scientific revolution had no notion. Leonardo da Vinci did not know, Galileo did not know, Isaac Newton did not know.

They knew, that is, that men and women have sex and as a result, sometimes, babies, but they did not know how those babies are created. They did not know that women produce eggs, and when they finally discovered sperm cells, they did not divine that those wriggly tadpoles had anything to do with babies and pregnancy. (The leading theory was that they were parasites, perhaps related to the newly discovered mini-creatures that swam in drops of pond water. This was Newton's view.)

For centuries, scientists struggled to find out if the woman merely provides a fertile field for the man's seed, or if she produces some kind of seed of her own. They did not know how twins come to be. (Too much semen? Two bouts of sex in quick succession? Sex with two different men?)

They did not know if conception is more likely on the night of a full moon or a new moon or if timing makes any difference at all. They did not know, though they assumed, that a baby has only one father, as it has only one mother. They did not know why babies resemble their parents, and sometimes one parent more than the other.

This was not because our scientific predecessors were foolish. Many were dazzlingly intelligent and diligent. But nature guards her secrets closely. For one thing, sperm and egg are hidden and tiny. The human egg, though it is the largest cell in the body, is only the size of the period at the end of this sentence. Sperm cells are the smallest in the body, far too little to see with the naked eye. (An egg outweighs the sperm cell that fertilizes it by a million to one, the difference between a Thanksgiving turkey and a housefly.)

Religious faith made discovery all the more challenging. In the early years of the modern age, science and religion were not rivals but allies. All the great lights of the scientific revolution were devout. All of them took for granted that, by studying God's works, they were exalting his creation. But God was not simply the Creator who had shaped the stars and planets and sculpted the whale's fin, the eagle's beak, and Adam and Eve; he was the only being with the power to create life. How could it be, then, that an ordinary couple huffing and puffing in the dark could create a new being? This riddle preoccupied the West's greatest thinkers for more than two centuries.

Two more problems conspired to befuddle our scientific ancestors. One was practical. Virtually without exception, the scientists wrestling with the mystery of life were men. More than that, they took for granted that women were their physical and mental inferiors. Aristotle spoke for many when he described females as "mutilated males."

Since the scientists' goal was to understand how men and women, together, create babies, to start with the assumption that one of the two participants wasn't up to much was to ask for trouble.

A second problem was more abstract. The seemingly straightforward question where do babies come from led scientists into a philosophical fog; they found they had to grapple with the far more slippery what is the nature of life?

It took until 1875 to sort out the riddle of sperm and egg. That spring, a vain, grumpy German scientist named Oscar Hertwig stared down a microscope at a sea urchin egg. (The eggs were a scientific favorite because they were see-through and, if you happened to have any extras at the end of the day, delicious.) Hertwig pushed a drop of sea urchin semen near the egg and saw what no one had ever seen until that moment: the process of fertilization play out in full view.

Today, scientists still cannot explain one of the simplest questions of all — not where do babies come from, but where does consciousness come from? Why is it that a robot, even one that can find its way around the room and beep and blink and play chess, is simply a lifeless collection of parts, whereas we humans are self-aware, swimming in a sea of smells and sights and memories?

For our forebears in centuries past, the riddle of life seemed every bit as intractable as the riddle of consciousness does today. Now we know how living creatures work, though for millennia the deepest thinkers on Earth could only guess. And today every 10-year-old can say where babies come from. That's progress, but we shouldn't be too smug.

Every generation makes the mistake of thinking that the escalator runs only as high as their floor. Not so. We can be sure that in centuries to come, our descendants will look back at us and quote our earnest beliefs and shake their heads in astonishment.

THE CONSUMER CAUTION CORNER

Making a budget

By MICHAEL J. CYGANEK
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Michael J. Cyganek is the consumer counsel of the Office of the Attorney General.

This week, the Office of the Attorney General's "Consumer Caution Corner" outlines the Federal Trade Commission's guidance on how consumers can make a budget.

A budget is a plan that shows you how you can spend your money every month. Making a budget can help you make sure you do not run out of money each month. A budget will also help you save money for your goals or for emergencies.

How do I make a budget?

■ Step #1: Write down your expenses. Expenses are what you spend money on. Expenses include:

■ Bills:
- bills that are the same each month, like rent
- bills that might change each month, like utilities
- bills you pay once or twice a year, like car insurance

■ Other expenses, like:
- food
- gas
- entertainment
- clothes
- school supplies
- money for family
- unplanned expenses, like car repairs or medical bills
- credit card bills

You might have bills that change every month. Look at what you paid for the same month last year. You might need $200 for your gas bill in January, but $30 in July.

■ Step #2: Write down how much money you make. This includes your paychecks and any other money you get, like child support.

■ Step #3: Subtract your expenses from how much money you make. This number should be more than zero. If it is less than zero, you are spending more money than you make. Look at your budget to see what you do not need or what you could spend less on.

How do I use my budget?

You can use your budget every month:

- At the beginning of the month, make a plan for how you will spend your money that month. Write what you think you will earn and spend.
- Write down what you spend. Try to do this every day.
- At the end of the month, see if you spent what you planned.
- Use the information to help you plan the next month's budget.

Example budget

Use this worksheet to see how much money you spend this month. Then, use this month's information to help you plan next month's budget.

Some bills are monthly and some come less often. If you have an expense that does not occur every month, put it in the "Other expenses this month" category.

Maybe your income is more than your expenses. You have money left to save or spend. Maybe your expenses are more than your income. Look at your budget to find expenses to cut.

Each week, the OAG's Consumer Protection Education Program (a.k.a. "The Consumer Caution Corner") shares FTC and/or Federal Communications Commission publications that provide consumers and businesses with the "know-how" to identify and protect themselves from unfair trade practices and marketplace schemes. If you would like to file a Consumer Complaint, please pick up a Form at the OAG (in Capitol Hill) or request one by email from consumer_counsel@cnmioag.org. After completing the Consumer Complaint, please submit it by email or in-person. We cannot act as your private attorney. If you need legal assistance, we will recommend that you contact a private attorney or legal aid organization. We cannot give legal advice or act as your private attorney.

TRUMP

From Page 10

as Obama initially did, wasn't enough. The Obama administration "needed to call out Russia earlier, and needed to act to deter and punish Russia earlier, and I think that was a very serious mistake," he told CNN.

It's likely that polls showing that former Secretary of State Clinton was going to win the election influenced Obama's behavior. And he surely could not have known that then-FBI Director James Comey would drop his own public opinion-altering bombshell — reopening the investigation of Clinton's emails in late October and then putting out a proverbial "never mind" to Congress just two days before the election. That was a major blunder (that should have gotten Comey fired, according to Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein, whose recommendation of such action might have been persuasive if Trump had not already decided to fire Comey for "the Russia thing," as the president later told NBC News).

Confused? You should be. Russian meddling in the election is "fake news" and a Democratic conspiracy or worse when it's convenient for Trump but an embarrassing failure to crack down on the Russians when it's a chance to criticize his predecessor. He can't have it both ways. But then he just did.

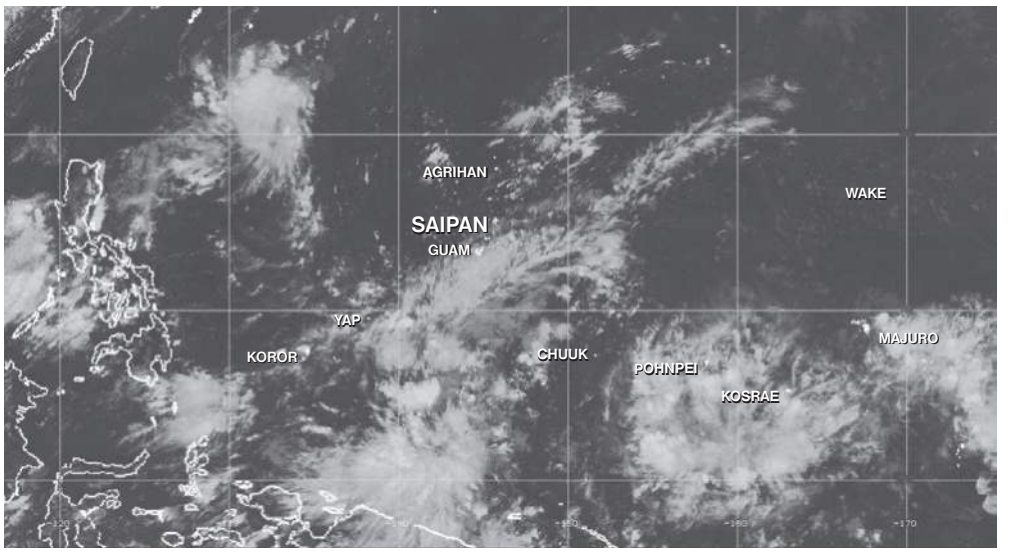
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The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 5:51 AM, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28, 2017
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

The upper low will be the predominant weather feature for the remainder of the week into the weekend. It appears as if there are two main pieces of energy with it and timing of those is difficult. However, it does appear the first will move through later tonight into Thursday so have increased shower chances to scattered during this time. The second wave looks to be sometime Friday into Saturday, but until we get closer have maintained the current forecast for now with isolated for now. Timing could always change faster or slower, but the remainder of the week into the weekend looks unsettled. Latest guidance also keeps seas elevated a bit longer as the upper low moves through.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Palau	Thunderstorms	84° / 77°
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	87° / 79°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85° / 77°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85° / 77°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 81°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	57° / 54°
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	95° / 73°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	88° / 82°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	85° / 74°
London	Showers	66° / 55°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	76° / 61°
Manila	Thunderstorms	90° / 79°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	54° / 36°
Miami	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°
New York	Partly Cloudy	87° / 73°
Osaka	Rain	84° / 75°
Paris	Showers	70° / 57°
Busan	Showers	81° / 73°
Rome	Showers	84° / 70°
Salem	Thunderstorms	81° / 70°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	62° / 51°
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	86° / 72°
Tokyo	Thunderstorms	82° / 73°
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	93° / 75°

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- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
12:10 AM	HIGH TIDE	2.01
6:13 AM	LOW TIDE	0.96
10:54 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.65
6:00 PM	LOW TIDE	-0.02

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:49 AM	6:51 PM
Friday	5:50 AM	6:51 PM
Saturday	5:50 AM	6:51 PM
Sunday	5:50 AM	6:51 PM
Monday	5:50 AM	6:51 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	10:41 AM	11:19 PM	-
Friday	11:33 AM	-	-
Saturday	-	12:01 AM	12:24 PM
Sunday	-	12:41 AM	1:12 PM
Monday	-	1:20 AM	2:01 PM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 19, 2017

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	1:35am	5:20am	2, 3, 4, 5
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
TW308	2:35am	6:20am	6, 7
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
LJ652	4:45am	8:35am	1, 4, 5, 7
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily
ZE582	4:45pm	8:35pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	5:20am	8:00am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:15pm	7:00pm	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	8:55am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:15am	Daily via GUM
PR1572	4:40am	6:45am	1, 4
UA6391/183	1:30pm	8:50pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:10pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/193	1:30pm	10:40pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR
UA6390/183	2:20pm	8:50pm	2 via GUM
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA6390/193	2:20pm	10:40pm	2 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	2:00am	5:00am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:40am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	4:40am	8:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
UA6391/159	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA6390/159	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
ZE581	10:10am	3:55pm	Daily
TW307	7:05pm	12:35am+1	1, 2, 3, 4
OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
TW307	8:05pm	1:35am+1	5, 6
OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily
LJ651	10:00pm	3:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4
OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 6
7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:25pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:20am	2:50pm	Daily

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR1571	9:10pm	3:40am+1	3, 7
UA192/6395	9:45pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA184/6395	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
PR110/UA6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA184/6395	11:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UO42	4:50pm	12:05am+1	2, 6
HX076	5:20pm	12:30am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:05pm	1:10am+1	1
UO42	6:10pm	1:00am+1	3
UO42	6:10pm	1:10am+1	4
UO42	6:40pm	2:00am+1	7
UA116/6395	10:45pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, ZE Eastar Jet, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

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Bordallo addresses OIA budget cuts during hearing

WASHINGTON, D.C.— Congresswoman Madeleine Z. Bordallo questioned proposed cuts to the Office of Insular Affairs contained in the President's Budget request during a recent hearing of the House Committee on Natural Resources.

Bordallo expressed her concerns that the President's budget reduces technical assistance to the territories by $1 million and eliminates $3 million in discretionary Compact Impact funding. She underscored that while these cuts may seem relatively small, they could have serious implications to organizations and the Government of Guam that rely on funding.

Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke Zinke understood Bordallo's concerns and expressed his desire to working with her on issues important to Guam and other territories. He further expressed the Administration's understanding of the important role Guam plays in the Asia-Pacific region.

"I am very concerned by the proposed cuts to the Office of Insular Affairs contained in the President's Budget. The Government of Guam and many of our non-profit organizations rely on technical assistance from OIA to modernize equipment, support programming, and provide services in our community, and while relatively small, could have significant impacts on their abilities to carry out their missions.

"Additionally I'm concerned that the President's budget also eliminates $3 million in discretionary Compact Impact. Compact Impact continues to be one of the most challenging issues impacting our community, and funding is already inadequate to meet the costs incurred by GovGuam. Over the last several years, I fought to protect this funding and will again work with my colleagues to ensure that we continue to prioritize Compact impact.

"I appreciate Secretary Zinke's recognition of the important role Guam plays in the region and his commitment to working with me to ensure that our issues are addressed. I will continue to advocate for robust funding for Guam and the OIA programs that support our community," said Bordallo. ***(PR)***



DISABILITY TRAINING FOR EMERGENCY RESPONDERS CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Northern Marianas College's University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD) recently held a training workshop for representatives from the Department of Public Safety, Commonwealth Ports Authority, and the Department of Fire and Emergency Services in Rota. The training, entitled "Disability Training for Emergency Responders," is part of NMC's efforts to build and strengthen the community's capacity to provide support to individuals with disabilities and their families. Topics included communication barriers, blind/visual impairments/Services animals/cognitive impairments and mobility impairments. Photo includes first responders from various agencies as well as NMC UCEDD and NMC Rota Center representatives.

Bark beetle attacking Guam's *nanåsu* plants now identified

Working with the University of Guam, experts at the University of Florida have identified the tiny bark beetle which is attacking Guam's nanåsu plants, also known as beach naupaka or by its scientific name, *Scaevola taccada*. Nanåsu is a major component of the beach strand community on Pacific Islands where it is also used as an ornamental landscaping plant. Ironically, this same plant species is considered to be an invasive species in Florida and the Caribbean (CABI 2017).

A few weeks ago Ilene Quitugua, a contractor who monitors the health of landscape plants for the Guam Visitor's Bureau (GVB) and Denson Fairfield, Landscape Management Systems, a company that maintains landscapes for GVB, noticed that nanåsu plants used in ornamental hedges throughout Tumon Bay were starting to die.

The University of Guam College of Natural and Applied Sciences Extension and Outreach (UOG-CNAS-EO) was contacted and asked to investigate the cause of the problem and make recommendations for solving it. UOG-CNAS-EO extension agent Phoebe Wall and UOG-CNAS-EO entomologist Dr. Aubrey Moore collected plant samples. When dead and dying branches were cut open and examined under a microscope, Moore found many minute bark beetles feeding inside. Images were taken and sent to Dr. Jiri Hulcr at the University of Florida who is a world expert on bark beetles. Dr. Hulcr kindly offered to help identify the beetles and asked for specimens to be sent to him. Getting the scientific name for a pest unlocks the global knowledge base for that species. This allows us to answer questions such as:

- Is this an invasive species (a species from elsewhere which is likely to cause harm)?
- What is the range of plants that the pest feeds on, and what kind of damage does it do?
- What methods have been used to successfully control the pest?
- Does the pest transmit plant pathogens?

Accurate identification of insect pests is very important and far more difficult than most people expect. Species determination is usually performed by highly skilled taxonomists who specialize in a relatively small group of species. Bark beetles are among the hardest insects to identify. They belong to a family of beetles called Curculionidae, which contains more than 86,000 species and many more yet to be described.

Specimens from Guam arrived at the University of Florida this week and were identified as *Hemicryphalus argutus* by Andrew Johnson, a graduate student working in Hulcr's lab. Johnson is the world›s leading taxonomist in a huge group of tiny bark beetles known as Cryphalini, or the pygmy borers. Almost nothing is known about this species. The only previous record is from specimens collected on Saipan during 1944 and 1945 (Wood 1960).

Although this is the first time *H. argutus* has been observed on Guam, it is probably not an invasive species. Moore thinks it is likely that this is an endemic species, meaning that it evolved on Guam and other Mariana Islands. So why are we seeing what is becoming known as *Scaevola* dieback? One possible cause to be investigated is plant pathogens. Many species of bark beetles related to *H. argutus* infect plants with fungus on which they feed. It is the fungus that actually kills the plant, not the tiny beetles.

Or, we may have the wrong suspect. The plot thickens as the *Scaevola* dieback investigation proceeds. ***(PR)***

Guam lawmaker offers new minimum wage legislation

HAGATNA, Guam—Guam Sen. James V. Espaldon, Minority Leader of the 34th Guam Legislature, has introduced legislation that calls for a more gradual and less abrupt increase to the island's minimum wage.

Bill No. 135-34 (LS) seeks to increase the minimum wage to $8.75 per hour effective Jan. 1, 2018. This marks an increase of 50 cents from the current Guam minimum wage of $8.25 per hour.

The legislation also calls for an increase of the minimum wage to $9.20 per hour effective January 1, 2019.

In coming up with the new minimum wage legislation, Espaldon said there is a need to strike a balance between the needs and requirements of all sectors of the island's community.

"On the one hand, we need to increase the minimum wage to benefit our workers and help them cope with the current cost of living on island. On the other hand, we must not make the increase so high and so fast that employers and businesses will suffer and be forced to lay off people. There is a very delicate balance that is needed," Espaldon said.

Aside from a new minimum wage, the bill also establishes a training wage of $8.25 per hour effective on Jan. 1 2018 for a period not to exceed 90 calendar days. After the successful completion of the training, each person receiving a training wage shall be paid the applicable wages listed in Section 3105, Chapter 3, Title 22 of the Guam Code Annotated.

In addition, the bill also has a provision for a youth minimum wage. Under this provision, every employer may pay each person under 20 years of age a minimum wage of $8.25 per hour effective Jan. 1 2018 for the initial 90 calendar days of employment. Upon the completion of the initial 90 days of employment, or after having attained 20 years of age, each person shall be paid the applicable wages listed in Section 3105, Chapter 3, Title 22 of the Guam Code Annotated.

In drafting the bill, Espaldon said he took into consideration the results of the minimum wage study conducted by the Department of Labor as well as input from various sectors and stakeholders of the island's economy.

"I would like to assure everyone that if this bill becomes law and economic conditions change once more, we will again initiate legislation to adjust the minimum wage to adapt to new conditions," said Espaldon.

"We always need to look at the bigger picture and ensure that no one sector of the community is unduly advantaged or disadvantaged. Everybody must benefit from a win-win situation," the senator added. ***(PR)***

'Na'lå'lap': Songs of Freedom Concert at Adelup on July 4

GUAM—After the success of the Respect the Chamoru People Rally in April, where more than 600 people gathered to show their support for the rights of the Chamorro people, Independent Guåhan is organizing "Songs of Freedom," the first of its Na'lå'la' Concert Series. The concert will take place on Tuesday, July 4, from 2pm to 5pm at Adelup Field, and is free and open to the public.

Independent Guåhan is an organization that is committed to educating the island community about the importance of Guam's decolonization and the possibilities should it become an independent country. The organization has spent the past year organizing General Assemblies, teach-ins, petition drives, coffee shop conversations, and podcasts. This concert represents another phase in community outreach, using creative performances to inspire the island community to imagine a different future for Guam.

More than a dozen artists will be performing under the theme of "Music, Poetry, Knowledge and Freedom." Confirmed performers include Difendi, Patrick Palomo, Shannon McManus, Stacia Guzman, Matt Sablan, JD Innawave, P.J. San Nicolas, Shane Root, Inetnon Gef På'go, Anthony Santos, Nichole Palao'an Trongko Quintanilla, Ryan Leon Guerrero and more. Each performance will connect to the overall theme of freedom, liberation, and working to create a better and more independent future for Guam. This reflects the spirit of "Na'lå'la'" or "to give life" in which the concert series is named. The concert is an expression of our determination to give life to a decolonized future. In addition to the live performances, there will also be informational booths, providing educational materials from various community groups. ***(PR)***

Business

New highly virulent strain of ransomware cripples networks

PARIS (AP)—A new, highly virulent strain of malicious software that is crippling computers globally appears to have been sown in Ukraine, where it badly hobbled much of the government and private sector on the eve of a holiday celebrating a post-Soviet constitution.

The fresh cyber-assault Tuesday leveraged the same intrusion tool as a similar attack in May and proved again just how disruptive to daily life sophisticated cyber-assaults can be in this age of heavy reliance on computers.

Hospitals, government offices and major multinationals were among the casualties of the ransomware payload, which locks up computer files with all-but-unbreakable encryption and then demands a ransom for its release.

Ukraine and Russia appeared hardest hit. In the United States, it affected companies such as the drugmaker Merck and Mondelez International, the conglomerate of food brands such as Oreo and Nabisco. Multinationals, including the global law firm DLA Piper and Danish shipping giant A.P. Moller-Maersk, were also affected.

The virus' pace appeared to slow by Wednesday, in part because the malware appeared to require direct contact between computer networks, a factor that may have limited its spread in regions with fewer connections to Ukraine.

Its origins and the motive for its release remained unclear, and financial gain may not have been a big reason. The time and place of release could have been a clue.

It was loosed on the eve of a national holiday marking Ukraine's 1996 constitution - its first after independence from Soviet rule.

Ukraine has been a persistent target of pro-Russia hackers in recent years. They have been blamed for twice shutting down large swaths of its power grid and sabotaging its elections network in a bid to disrupt a May 2014 national vote.

Researchers picking the program apart found evidence its creators had borrowed from leaked National Security Agency code, raising the possibility that the digital havoc had spread using U.S. taxpayer-funded tools.

Google fined $2.7B for abusing weaker rivals

BRUSSELS (AP)—European regulators fined Google a record 2.42 billion euros ($2.72 billion) for abusing its dominance of the online search market in a case that could be just the opening salvo in Europe's attempt to curb the company's clout on that continent.

The decision announced Tuesday by the European Commission punished Google for unfairly favoring its own online shopping recommendations in its search results. The commission is also conducting at least two other probes into the company's business practices that could force Google to make even more changes in the way it bundles services on mobile devices and sells digital advertising.

Even so, Europe's crackdown is unlikely to affect Google's products in the U.S. or elsewhere. But it could provide an opportunity to contrast how consumers fare when the company operates under constraints compared with an unfettered Google.

The fine immediately triggered debate about whether European regulators were taking prudent steps to preserve competition or overstepping their bounds to save companies being shunned by consumers who have overwhelmingly embraced an alternative.

Margrethe Vestager, Europe's top antitrust regulator, said her agency's nearly seven-year investigation left no doubt something had to be done to rein in Google.

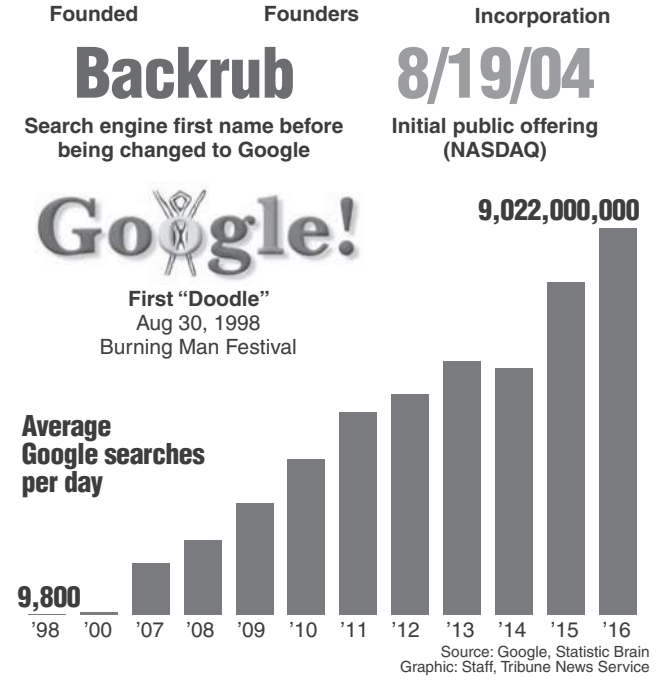
"What Google has done is illegal under EU antitrust rules. It denied other companies the chance to compete on the merits and to innovate. And most importantly, it denied European consumers a genuine choice of services and the full benefits of innovation," Vestager told reporters Tuesday.

The fine was the highest ever imposed in Europe for anti-competitive behavior, exceeding a 1.06 billion euros penalty on Silicon Valley chip maker Intel in 2009.

The penalty itself is unlikely to leave a dent in Google's finances. Parent company Alphabet Inc. has more than $92 billion (82 billion euros) in cash, including nearly $56 billion (50 billion euros) in accounts outside of the U.S.

The findings in Europe contrasted sharply with those reached by the U.S. Federal Trade Commission in a similar investigation of Google completed in 2013. The FTC absolved Google of any serious wrongdoing after concluding that its search recommendations did not undermine competition or hurt consumers.

Leading up to that unanimous decision, though, some of the FTC's staff sent a memo to the agency's commissioners recommending legal action because Google's "conduct has resulted—and will result—in real harm to consumers and to innovation in the online search and advertising markets," according to a memo inadvertently released to The Wall Street Journal two years ago.



Nation

Senate GOP shelves health bill



AP

President Donald Trump, center, speaks as he meets with Republican senators on health care in the East Room of the White House in Washington, Tuesday, June 27, 2017.

WASHINGTON (AP)—Senate GOP leaders abruptly shelved their long-sought health care overhaul Tuesday, asserting they can still salvage it but raising new doubts about whether President Donald Trump and the Republicans will ever deliver on their promises to repeal and replace "Obamacare."

Republican leader Mitch McConnell announced a delay for any voting at a closed-door senators' lunch also attended by Vice President Mike Pence. McConnell's tone was matter-of-fact, according those present, yet his action amounts to a stinging setback for the longtime Senate leader who had developed the legislation largely in secret as Trump hung back in deference.

Now Trump seems likely to push into the discussion more directly, and he immediately invited Senate Republicans to the White House. But the message he delivered to them before reporters were ushered out of the room was not entirely hopeful.

"This will be great if we get it done, and if we don't get it done it's just going to be something that we're not going to like, and that's OK and I understand that very well," he told the senators, who surrounded him at tables arranged in a giant square in the East Room. Most wore grim expressions.

In the private meeting that followed, said Marco Rubio of Florida, the president spoke of "the costs of failure, what it would mean to not get it done—the view that we would wind up in a situation where the markets will collapse and Republicans will be blamed for it and then potentially have to fight off an effort to expand to single payer at some point."

The bill has many critics and few outspoken fans on Capitol Hill. It was short of support heading toward a critical procedural vote on Wednesday, and prospects for changing that are uncertain. McConnell promised to revisit the legislation after Congress' July 4 recess.

"It's a big complicated subject, we've got a lot discussions going on, and we're still optimistic we're going to get there," McConnell told reporters after the lunch.

It hasn't been easy, as adjustments to placate conservatives, who want the legislation to be more stringent, only push away moderates who think its current limits—on Medicaid for example—are too strong.

MTA: Train derailment caused by 'improperly secured' rail

NEW YORK (AP)—A subway train that derailed Tuesday as it entered a station, tossing people to the floor and forcing hundreds of shaken-up passengers to evacuate through darkened tunnels was caused by an "improperly secured piece of replacement rail" that was stored on the tracks, New York City transit officials said.

Nearly three dozen people suffered minor injuries in the derailment, which happened in Harlem just before 10 a.m.

"Storing equipment in between tracks is a common practice employed by railroads across the country to accelerate rail repairs," the Metropolitan Transportation Authority said in a statement late Tuesday. "The key to this being an effective and safe practice is making sure that the extra equipment is properly bolted down, which does not appear to have happened in this case."

The MTA said crews are inspecting "every inch of rail" to ensure that every replacement part "is properly stored and secured."

Photos of the train posted on social media showed its metal side deeply scraped and dented from being dragged along the wall of the subway tunnel. Debris, including broken signaling equipment and chunks of concrete, were left in the train's wake.

Passengers on the A train said it suddenly jerked and began shaking violently as it approached the station at 125th Street and St. Nicholas Avenue.

"We started seeing sparks through the windows. People were falling," said passenger Susan Pak, of Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey.

Sparks from the skidding train briefly ignited garbage on the track, but there was no serious fire and the train stayed upright, said Joe Lhota, chairman of the MTA.

The derailment came after a winter and spring marked by mechanical failures, power outages and several episodes in which passengers were trapped on stuck trains for an hour or more. Some state lawmakers demanded that the Legislature take up emergency funding for the system in a special session scheduled for Wednesday.

Jack Cox, a software developer, said he felt a "large thump" and heard and felt the train grinding for as long as 30 seconds.

Asia

1 HK, 2 sentiments after 20 years of Chinese rule

HONG KONG (AP)—Hong Kong is planning a big party as it marks 20 years under Chinese rule. But many people in the former British colony are not in the mood to celebrate.

Fireworks, a gala variety show and Chinese military displays are among the official events planned to coincide with a visit by Chinese President Xi Jinping starting Thursday for the occasion.

Ahead of the anniversary, state broadcaster China Central Television has been running daily news features extolling what it calls the inextricable ties between China and Hong Kong in fields ranging from sports to the military and the arts.

Underneath the surface, however, tensions are simmering as Hong Kongers, especially the young, chafe at life under the tightening grip of China's Communist leaders.

"People are not celebrating but worrying about Hong Kong's future and its current situation," said Nathan Law, who at age 23 was elected the city's youngest-ever lawmaker last year and was a student leader of 2014's massive "Umbrella Movement" pro-democracy demonstrations.

Members of the Demosisto political party including young activist Joshua Wong on Monday draped a giant flower statue bequeathed by Beijing in 1997 in black cloth, which they said symbolized "the hard-line rule of the authoritarian regime." Other protests in the works include a rally by a pro-independence group on Friday evening and a pro-democracy march on Saturday, the latter an annual event that has drawn big crowds in the past.

Law said there's growing concern that Beijing is steadily eroding the "one country, two systems" principle put in place after it took control of the Asian financial hub. Under that principle, Hong Kong largely runs its own affairs and enjoys civil liberties unseen on the mainland, but now, he said, "there are lots of people describing the current system as 'one country, 1.5 systems.'"

He and others tick off a list of incidents that stoke fears about China tightening control. At the top is the case of five Hong Kong booksellers secretly detained on the mainland starting in late 2015 for selling gossipy titles about elite Chinese politics to mainland readers. One of the men, Gui Minhai, is still being held.

In a similar case, a Chinese-born tycoon with a Canadian passport went missing earlier this year from his hotel suite. News reports indicated mainland Chinese security agents operating in Hong Kong abducted him—a violation of the city's constitution.

Myriad other government plans have raised hackles, including stationing Chinese immigration officers in a downtown high-speed rail terminus under construction; setting up a local branch of Beijing's Palace Museum without public consultation; introducing so-called patriotic national education in schools that many parents fear is a cover for pro-Communist brainwashing; and introducing anti-subversion national security legislation.

Another worry, said veteran pro-democracy lawmaker Claudia Mo, is the flood of so-called "red capital" as mainland investors buy up property and expand businesses in Hong Kong, elbowing aside indigenous tycoons. The wave of buying has been blamed for further inflating housing prices that make Hong Kong one of the world's most unequal places.

"We're supposed to be capitalists—fine. Except when it comes to public auctions of land, when all the big mainland concerns will always win," Mo said.

Xi's three-day visit includes an inspection of People's Liberation Army troops based in the city and culminates in the swearing-in of Hong Kong's new leader Carrie Lam. Police are ratcheting up security, with media reports indicating officers will crack down on political banners and images.

China's Communist leaders are eager to tout the success of "one country, two systems," which was envisioned as a way to entice back Taiwan, which Beijing sees as renegade province.

US Navy holds memorial service for 7 sailors killed in crash

TOKYO (AP)—U.S. Navy paid tribute on Tuesday to seven sailors who were killed when their destroyer collided with a merchant ship off Japan.

The Japan-based 7th Fleet said more than 2,000 sailors and their families attended the ceremony in Yokosuka, south of Tokyo. They lined the streets waving flags in memory of the victims.

The USS Fitzgerald, carrying nearly 300 crewmembers, and Philippine-flagged container ship ACX Crystal collided in waters off Yokosuka in the predawn hours of June 17. Severe damage to the right side and bottom of the guided-missile destroyer flooded the berths of 116 sailors. Navy divers found the bodies of the seven in the ship after it returned to Yokosuka.

The container ship has left Yokohama, where it was investigated by Japanese authorities, for repairs of its damaged bow at an unspecified shipyard in Japan, its owner, Dainichi-Invest Corp., said. It said the ship's captain and several other crewmembers stayed behind for further questioning by the Japanese coast guard.

The 7th Fleet said its theater was filled to capacity for the ceremony honoring the sailors.

Adm. Scott Swift, commander of the U.S. Pacific Fleet, surveyed the ship's damage and praised its crew for saving it from sinking, it said.

"It's stunning, absolutely stunning, while we mourn the loss of the seven sailors, that more were not lost," Swift said in a statement. "There was no understanding of what had happened at the moment of impact ... but there was complete understanding of what needed to be done."

The collision occurred in an accident-prone area known for congestion with ships trying to reach Tokyo by daybreak.

The cause of the crash is still under investigation. Japanese coast guard officials say they are eyeing possible professional negligence, but so far their interviews of the container ship's captain and crewmembers—all Filipinos —have been on a voluntary basis.

The U.S. Navy is investigating what happened aboard the warship, while Japanese authorities are investigating the container ship and its crew.

Ordinarily, Japan has the right to investigate maritime collisions in its territorial waters, but in the case of U.S. warships, the U.S. Navy has the primary right to do so under a bilateral Status of Forces Agreement, making it uncertain whether Japan will have access to the U.S. probe.

World

Venezuela: Chopper strafes Supreme Court

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—A stolen police helicopter fired on Venezuela's Supreme Court and Interior Ministry in what President Nicolas Maduro said was a thwarted "terrorist attack" aimed at ousting him from power.



AP

In this June 22, 2017 file photo, Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro gives a news conference in Caracas, Venezuela.

The confusing exchange, which is bound to ratchet up tensions in a country already paralyzed by months of deadly anti-government protests, took place as Maduro was speaking live on state television Tuesday. He later said the helicopter had fired on the pro-government court with grenades, one of which didn't go off, helping avoid any loss of life.

Adding to the intrigue, pictures of a blue police helicopter carrying an anti-government banner appeared on social media around the same time as a video in which an alleged police pilot, identified as Oscar Perez, called for a rebellion against Maduro's "tyranny" as part of a coalition of members of the country's security forces. Authorities said they were still searching for the man.

"We have two choices: be judged tomorrow by our conscience and the people or begin today to free ourselves from this corrupt government," the man said while reading from a statement with four people dressed in military fatigues, ski masks and carrying what looked like assault rifles standing behind him.

Maduro sounded alternately calm and angry as he told the audience about what had happened in the airspace just beyond the presidential palace where they were gathered.

"It could've caused a tragedy with several dozen dead and injured," he said.

Later, Information Minister Ernesto Villegas read a statement from the government accusing the helicopter of firing 15 shots against the Interior Ministry as a reception was taking place for 80 people celebrating national journalist's day. It then flew a short distance to the court, which was in session, and launched what he said were four Israeli-made grenades of "Colombian origin," two of them against national guardsmen protecting the building.

The pro-government president of the high court said there were no injuries from the attack and that the area was still being surveyed for damages.

Villegas said security forces were being deployed to apprehend Perez as well as recover the heisted German-built Bolkow helicopter. Photos of the pilot standing in front of the U.S. Capitol in Washington and a U.S. Coast Guard helicopter were displayed on state television to further bolster the government's case that he was taking instructions from the CIA and the U.S. Embassy.

Meanwhile, many of Maduro's opponents took to social media to accuse the president of orchestrating an elaborate ruse to justify a crackdown against Venezuelans seeking to block his plans to rewrite the constitution. Venezuela has been roiled by anti-government protests the past three months that have left at least 75 people dead and hundreds injured.

Iran accuses US of 'brazen' plan to change its government

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—Iran is accusing U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson of "a brazen interventionist plan" to change the current government that violates international law and the U.N. Charter.

Iran's U.N. Ambassador Gholamali Khoshroo said in a letter to Secretary-General Antonio Guterres circulated Tuesday that Tillerson's comments are also "a flagrant violation" of the 1981 Algiers Accords in which the United States pledged "not to intervene, directly or indirectly, politically or militarily, in Iran's internal affairs."

Tillerson said in a June 14 hearing before the House Foreign Affairs Committee on the 2018 State Department budget that U.S. policy is to prevent Iran from developing nuclear weapons "and work toward support of those elements inside of Iran that would lead to a peaceful transition of that government."

"Those elements are there, certainly as we know," he said.

Kohshroo said Iran expects all countries to condemn "such grotesque policy statements and advise the government of the United States to act responsibly and to adhere to the principles of the (U.N.) Charter and international law."

He noted that Tillerson's comments came weeks after President Hassan Rouhani's re-election to another four-year term and local elections in which 71 percent of the Iranian people participated. Rouhani is a political moderate who defeated a hardline opponent.

"The people of Iran have repeatedly proven that they are the ones to decide their own destiny and thus attempts by the United States to interfere in Iranian domestic affairs will be doomed to failure," Kohshroo said. "They have learned how to stand strong and independent, as demonstrated in the Islamic Revolution of 1979."

He said Tillerson's statement also coincided with the released of newly declassified documents that "further clarified how United States agencies were behind the overthrow of Mohammad Mossadegh, the popular and democratically elected prime minister of Iran on Aug. 19, 1953."

At the June 14 hearing, Tillerson said the Trump administration's Iranian policy is under development.

"But I would tell you that we certainly recognize Iran's continued destabilizing (role) in the region," Tillerson said, citing its payment of foreign fighters, support for Hezbollah extremists, and "their export of militia forces in Syria, in Iraq, in Yemen."

Environment

Reef rescuers race to keep pace with climate change

By JENNY STALETOVICH
MIAMI HERALD



TNS
Dalton Hesley, Research Associate with the Lirman / Benthic Ecology Lab University of Miami, collects some staghorn coral to be replanted by a group of volunteers on June 3, 2017 departing from Divers Paradise at Crandon Park Marina in Key Biscayne, Fla.



TNS
Dalton Hesley, Research Associate Lirman / Benthic Ecology Lab University of Miami, explains to a group of volunteers the procedures to follow during a University of Miami's coral restoration program expedition on June 3, 2017 departing from Divers Paradise at Crandon Park Marina in Key Biscayne, Fla.

MIAMI—Ten years ago, when scientists in South Florida began a massive rescue effort to rebuild the nation's only inshore reef, replanting nursery-grown staghorn coral with a gardening technique perfected in the Pacific seemed like an easy solution.

"You can go to Home Depot to get everything you need," said University of Miami marine biologist Diego Lirman. "And you don't need to pay for this. People pay us to come out."

From Key West to Fort Lauderdale, volunteers and scientists planted thousands of staghorns in reef rescues. More than 90 percent of Lirman's corals survived — about 10 percent more than expected — signaling a rousing success. The work helped shift reef restoration from uglier, more costly engineered artificial reefs created with scuttled ships, which are also more susceptible to invasive species and vulnerable to sea rise. Labs expanded to meet the growing demand, added more kinds and perfected techniques.

Then came back-to-back bleaching events that started in 2014. In 2015, more than half of Lirman's transplanted staghorns died. Suddenly, the reef gardeners were faced with a daunting new obstacle: climate change.

With ocean temperatures rising in the last century, and consistently higher than ever before over the last three decades, scientists realized replanting nursery-grown versions of wild coral would not be enough. They would need to weed out the weak coral, find a way to make the garden-grown variety more resilient to both temperature and rising acidity linked to more carbon in the atmosphere, and work faster. Much faster.

Welcome to Rescue a Reef 2.0.

What started as a citizen science project to rebuild the reef is now an all-hands-on-deck dash to not only replant but develop a crop of tough new coral with cutting-edge science.

In April, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration signed off on a two-year project with UM to rebuild the reef, and one of South Florida's economic engines, with 10,000 corals grown in Lirman's lab. Last month, Mote Marine Laboratory opened a new 19,000-square-foot, $7 million lab on Summerland Key. And in August, Andrew Baker, another UM coral expert working with Lirman, will begin replicating a hardening method developed in his lab. Baker was also selected as the new Frost science museum's first inventor-in-residence and will display the ongoing efforts in a new public lab at the downtown museum.

"We've done it in the lab," Baker said. "Now we need to see if we can do it in the real world and scale it up."

Scale was in fact one of the dilemmas that led to the early advances in coral gardening. When he started working with the Nature Conservancy ten years ago, Lirman's goal was to save the staghorn coral thickets that in just 30 years had largely disappeared. Pollution, boat traffic and overfishing had wiped out many that grew along the coast. Hardly any elkhorn corals, another once-common variety, were left. Both, which are federally listed as endangered, are branching coral that provide habitat for wildlife and helped build more reef volume. In low-lying South Florida and across the Caribbean, that can be critically important.

Reefs not only help break-up fierce hurricane waves but, more importantly, subdue everyday waves that erode beaches, which has cost taxpayers millions in South Florida. Last year, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers spent $11.9 million just to shore up beaches in Miami-Dade County. It spent $7.1 million in Broward in 2013.

But Lirman needed to find a way to grow enough staghorns without poaching too much from the little that was left. So he collected 30 samples, enough for diversity. As disease and bleaching occurred, he was able to look more closely at the genotypes that fared better and focus on those.

"My nursery is now replanting close to 5,000 corals each year on 15 to 20 sites in Miami-Dade," he said, which amounts to "ecologically relevant scales."

So many divers wanted to participate that the project drew a monthslong waiting list. Based on UM's popular shark outreach, the effort for the last two years has taken volunteer divers on rescue missions that start at one of four offshore nurseries. Last month, a team of 10 divers led by research associate Dalton Hesley braved pouring rain to visit a sandy patch of ocean floor off Key Biscayne where PVC pipes are screwed together like plastic Christmas trees, with the branches dangling like ornaments.

After cleaning barnacles and algae from the pipes and clipping branches, the team headed to a nearby reef to replant the corals by zip-tying them to nails hammered into the reef. The pruned corals also regrow faster, Hesley said, not unlike a rose bush.

Lyanne Abreu, an environmental sciences teacher at TERRA, a Miami-Dade science magnet high school, had been trying to get on a dive for a year. Enrique Mercado, a financial adviser, waited five months for two openings so he could take his son.

"I've seen what we've done over 30 years. The kind of world we have now is nowhere near what I grew up with," he said. "I have to go to untouched areas now to show him what I used to see right off my beach."

While the dives gained popularity, Lirman knows the effort is just a Band-Aid. Since the early 1900s, the surface of the ocean, where most sea life lives, has risen on average 0.13 degrees Fahrenheit each decade, according to the Environmental Protection Agency. Over the next century, ocean temperatures are expected to rise 3.6 degrees Fahrenheit, which could mean big trouble for coral.

Tiny coral shelter algae in their anemonelike tentacles. The algae in return provide food. But when temperatures get too hot or too cold, coral spit out the algae and can die. A 2005 bleaching, the worst on record in the Atlantic basin, wiped out half the U.S. coral reefs in the Caribbean. In 2010, a South Florida cold snap killed up to 39 percent of inshore coral, Lirman reported. If his coral are to survive, they need to be a lot more resilient.

Enter Baker, Lirman's colleague and an expert on how corals handle climate changes.

For years, scientists in labs have been looking at the relationship between coral and algae to try to get at what makes the coral eject the algae. Baker always believed the coral were capable of an "adaptive strategy."

So he began intentionally stressing the coral — exposing them to heat and light — in his lab. Those that recover are more hardened to future stresses.

"We hit the corals with a kind of sweet spot, a Goldilocks zone where it expels some of its algae but not enough that it dies," he said.

In August, he'll take 1,600 of the corals covered under the NOAA project and float them on rafts near the surface at Lirman's four offshore coral nurseries to replicate the stressing performed in his lab. The field trial is intended to use sunlight, rather than temperature, to stress and harden the corals against bleaching. He'll then transplant them on the reef alongside Lirman's. He is stressing boulder corals as well as the staghorns to diversify the reef. Coupled with Lirman's work to pinpoint more genetically tolerant corals, the pair are hoping to repopulate pockets of the reef.

"One of the early points of criticism for reef restoration is you're growing corals and then putting them back in the same environments where they declined in the first place, and that is true. But we can't just wait," Lirman said.

If his field trial works, Baker said it's possible to replicate the hardening elsewhere in the world, like the Great Barrier reef, where an ongoing bleaching has ravaged an area larger than Italy and covering two-thirds of the reef.

They're also focusing on two spots off Key Biscayne and Miami Beach, where billions in property are vulnerable to sea rise, to see what impact the work has. Previous studies have shown that about three square feet of strategically placed reef can absorb 95 percent of a wave's energy, Lirman said.

"We're basically buying time for these larger issues to be resolved," he said. "We need to be doing something, and active restoration is what we do."

Life & Style

Retracted CNN story a boon for president at war with media

NEW YORK (AP)—For a president seemingly at perpetual war with "fake news," the resignation of three CNN journalists over a retracted story about a Donald Trump Russian connection is a gift from the political gods when the struggling effort to pass a health bill dominates the headlines.

The White House quickly took advantage Tuesday with blistering presidential tweets and a media scolding at the afternoon press briefing. Conservative provocateur James O'Keefe piled on by releasing a video with a CNN producer caught on camera talking about the network's Russia coverage being ratings-driven.

CNN late Monday accepted the resignations of journalists Thomas Frank, Eric Lichtblau and Lex Haris over last week's web story about Trump aide Anthony Scaramucci's pre-inaugural meeting with the head of a Russian investment fund. The network retracted the story on Friday and apologized to Scaramucci.

Trump has been unhappy with CNN since he was a candidate, and has been particularly annoyed by its reporting on connections with Russia. The misstep on a relatively minor story—it was never mentioned on any of CNN's television networks—left some White House staff members jubilant, believing it handed them a new talking point to use as a cudgel against mainstream media organizations they feel are largely biased against them.



AP

White House deputy press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders speaks during the daily briefing at the White House in Washington, Tuesday, June 27, 2017.

That happened quickly Tuesday when Sarah Huckabee Sanders called on a Breitbart News reporter for the first question of the White House briefing. It was about CNN.

She said the "constant barrage of fake news" at the president has frustrated Trump. She called stories about Russia and Trump "a hoax" that is distracting from other news. Sanders urged all Americans to watch a video posted by O'Keefe's Project Veritas featuring CNN producer John Bonifield—even though she couldn't vouch for its accuracy.

"If it is accurate, I think it's a disgrace to all of media, to all of journalism," Sanders said. "I think that if we have gone to a place where the media can't be trusted to report the news, then that's a dangerous place for America. And I think if that is that place that certain outlets are going—particularly for the purpose of spiking ratings, and if that's coming directly from the top, I think that's even more scary."

She was interrupted by reporter Brian Karem of the Sentinel newspapers, who accused Sanders of inflaming anti-media sentiment. "Everyone in this room is only trying to do their job," he said.

Sanders ignored CNN reporter Jeff Zeleny's attempt to ask a question before ending her briefing.

After Sanders left the stage, she was criticized on Fox News Channel, where Trump-friendly views usually dominate. Wall Street Journal editor John Bussey told Fox's Shepard Smith that "the White House could actually learn from CNN's example" about being forthright when caught saying something untrue.

Earlier in the day, Trump tweeted that "they caught Fake News CNN cold." He lumped ABC, CBS, NBC, The New York Times and The Washington Post together in the same "fake news" category. He said that "CNN is looking at big management changes now that they got caught falsely pushing their phony Russian stories. Ratings way down!"

A spokeswoman for CNN chief Jeff Zucker didn't respond to a request for comment on Tuesday. CNN's public relations staff refuted Trump's notion that the network is hurting, saying it is completing the most-watched second quarter in its history.

LA City Council oks plans for George Lucas museum

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Force was with George Lucas on Tuesday as the Los Angeles City Council moved with lightsaber speed to clear the way for a $1.5 billion Museum of Narrative Art the "Star Wars" creator plans to build down the road from his alma mater.

After hearing from Lucas himself, the council voted 14-0 to approve an environmental impact report and other requirements for the museum's construction adjacent to the University of Southern California.

"For a very brief time I actually grew up here," said Lucas, who earned a degree in film from USC. "That's where I learned movies. That's where I learned my craft. Basically where I started my career was in school here."

Lucas said his museum won't just focus on movies, however, but on the entire history of narrative storytelling, from the days of cave painting to digital film.

"I realized that the whole concept of narrative art has been forgotten," he told the council.

With Tuesday's approval, plans are to break ground in Exposition Park, south of downtown, as early as this year and open the museum to the public in 2021. The city says the project will cost taxpayers nothing because Lucas and his wife, Mellody Hobson, are footing the bill.



AP

Filmmaker George Lucas, left, and his wife Mellody Hobson listen to remarks at a news conference outside Los Angeles City Hall on Tuesday, June 27, 2017. T

"It is the largest private gift in our city, in our state or in our nation's history," said Councilman Curren D. Price Jr., whose district takes in the park.

It will feature all forms of narrative storytelling, said the museum's president, Don Bacigalupi. He said its exhibits will include story boards, costumes, props and various other elements that went into making "Casablanca," ''The Wizard of "Oz" and other classic films.

And, yes, there will be plenty of cool "Star Wars" stuff there too.

"Everything from Luke Skywalker's first lightsaber to Darth Vader's costume and helmet," said Bacigalupi.

The Lucas-Steven Spielberg "Indiana Jones" films also will be represented.

Numerous interactive programs for children, film students, academics and others will be offered.

Lucas said he hopes the museum will serve as inspiration to people of all ages, but especially to children, encouraging them to create a better world.

Popular art, he said, is the glue that holds people together, that teaches them that while we may have differences we have similar aspirations.

In addition to USC, the Museum of Narrative Art will be within close proximity to the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, the California Science Center and the California African American Museum.

Although Lucas' affection for USC is clear—he and his foundation have given the school tens of millions of dollars over the years—it was once assumed he'd put his museum in his hometown of San Francisco. Or if not there, then his wife's hometown of Chicago.

But when it came time to clear away all the bureaucratic hurdles, just like the upstart Rebel Alliance in "Star Wars," it was Los Angeles that prevailed.

"I wanted to put it in my hometown. They said no. Mellody wanted to put it in her hometown. They said no. We were both basically heartbroken," Lucas said.

"And then we said, 'All right, let's clear the boards and find a place that really wants it.'"

'John Wick,' 'Dragon Tattoo' star Michael Nyqvist dies at 56



AP

In this Sept. 12, 2015 file photo, Swedish actor Michael Nyqvist attends The Hollywood Foreign Press Association (HFPA) and InStyle's annual Toronto International Film Festival celebration in Toronto.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Swedish actor Michael Nyqvist, who starred in the original "The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo" films and often played villains in Hollywood movies like "John Wick" has died. Nyqvist's representative Jenny Tversky said Tuesday that he died after a year-long battle with lung cancer. He was 56.

"It is with deep sadness that I can confirm that our beloved Michael, one of Sweden's most respected and accomplished actors, has passed away quietly surrounded by family," Tversky said in a statement on behalf of the family.

Nyqvist is perhaps best known worldwide for originating the role of Mikael Blomkvist in the Swedish "The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo" series opposite Noomi Rapace. Daniel Craig played the role in the American adaptation.

In Hollywood, Nyqvist played a broad range of memorable roles, including the mob boss who terrorizes Keanu Reeves in "John Wick" and Tom Cruise's foe in "Mission: Impossible—Ghost Protocol."

"Michael's joy and passion were infectious to those who knew and loved him," read the family's statement. "His charm and charisma were undeniable, and his love for the arts was felt by all who had the pleasure of working with him."

Nyqvist has a number of films on the slate that are yet to come out, including Terrence Malick's World War II drama "Radegund" and Thomas Vinterberg's "Kursk," about the 2000 K-141 Kursk submarine disaster.

He is survived by his wife Catharina and their children Ellen and Arthur.

Cosby rejects 'sexual assault tour' idea floated by reps

SANTA MONICA, Calif. (AP)—Bill Cosby's "town hall" tour is unlikely to happen before his retrial on sex assault charges in Pennsylvania, one of his lawyers said Tuesday.

Attorney Angela Agrusa said after a hearing to set a trial date in a sex abuse lawsuit in Los Angeles Superior Court against the comedian that Cosby won't be discussing sexual assault and she "can't imagine" his legal team would let him perform or speak publicly as representatives said he planned to do this summer.



AP

Angela Agrusa, attorney for entertainer Bill Cosby, who is accused of sexual assault by Judy Huth at the Playboy Mansion more than 40 years ago, speaks outside Los Angeles Superior Court after a hearing, Tuesday, June 27, 2017, in Santa Monica, Calif.

"He doesn't take lightly these criminal charges," Agrusa said. "He would never do anything that undermined the importance of this issue. I don't see him speaking publicly like that."

Talk of the forums after a jury deadlocked in Pennsylvania in the criminal case sparked a backlash from groups that advocate for sexual assault victims and educate about sexual abuse.

Spokespeople for Cosby and his wife had said the forums - at least one planned in Birmingham, Alabama, next month when Cosby turns 80—were aimed at educating young people how to stay out of trouble and be aware of changing sex assault laws.

After those plans were criticized, though, a spokeswoman said the meetings were never intended to be about sexual assault but an effort to restore Cosby's legacy.

Cosby himself took issue Tuesday with the notion of a "sexual assault tour," dismissing it as propaganda, though he left open the possibility of some future event.

"The current propaganda that I am going to conduct a sexual assault tour is false," Cosby said in a statement. "Any further information about public plans will be given at the appropriate time."

The comedian and actor once known as "America's Dad" for his TV role on "The Cosby Show" as paternal Dr. Cliff Huxtable has had his reputation tarnished with accusations of sexual abuse by nearly 60 women.

One of those accusers is Judy Huth, who accused the comedian of forcing her to perform a sex act on him in a bedroom at the Playboy Mansion in Los Angeles around 1974 when she was 15.

Judge Craig Karlan tentatively scheduled that trial for July 30 next year with the expectation it would occur after a retrial in Pennsylvania. Cosby is due to give a second deposition in the case, but that won't occur until after the criminal case is concluded because he could assert his right not to testify against himself.

For a week, Fallon retakes the lead from Colbert



AP

In this May 23, 2017 file photo, Jimmy Fallon attends the SeriousFun Children's Network Gala in New York.

NEW YORK (AP)—Jimmy Fallon has topped Stephen Colbert in late-night ratings for the first time since Donald Trump has been president. But the NBC comic might want to keep the champagne on ice.

The Nielsen company said that Fallon's "Tonight" show averaged 2.66 million viewers last week, a whisker above the 2.62 million achieved by Colbert's "Late Show." CBS' Colbert, with his sharp anti-Trump humor, eclipsed long-time leader Fallon the week after Trump's January inauguration and hasn't looked back.

NBC's comparatively strong prime-time schedule in the summer may have helped; CBS has been airing mostly reruns lately in prime time. CBS also aired Colbert reruns on Thursday and Friday that were excluded in the ratings. The network believes it would have won if Colbert aired original shows on those nights, and that it will win when people who watch on a time-delayed basis are later counted in.

NBC won the week in prime time behind its summer hit, "America's Got Talent," and the companion series "World of Dance."

Fox was nearly invisible in the prime-time ratings, with its long-running "So You Think You Can Dance" supplanted by NBC in the hoofer competition.

Serena's latest shot: pregnant and nude on magazine cover

NEW YORK (AP)—Serena Williams is showing off her pregnancy with a nude photo on the cover of the August issue of Vanity Fair.

The tennis superstar is seen in profile with her right arm covering her breasts and her pregnant stomach prominently on display. The magazine unveiled the cover Tuesday.

Serena announced her pregnancy with Reddit co-founder Alexis Olhanian in April. The magazine reports the couple will be married in the fall after the baby is born. Williams tells the magazine she "did a double take" and her heart "dropped" when she saw a positive test because it came just before the Australian Open, which she ended up winning.

Williams was lauded over the weekend by former tennis star John McEnroe as the greatest female tennis player, "no question." When asked on NPR how she would rank on the men's tour, McEnroe said "like 700." On Tuesday, McEnroe was asked on "CBS This Morning" if he wanted to apologize and said "no."



AP

In this Jan. 28, 2017, file photo, Serena Williams holds up a finger and her trophy after defeating her sister, Venus, in the women's singles final at the Australian Open tennis championships in Melbourne, Australia.

Teen immersed in electronics is losing touch with people

DEAR ABBY: I've been dating a wonderful woman for two years. She has a son in high school I'll call "Jon." Like many teens I see, he is constantly on his smartphone, his school-required tablet or playing video games on the TV in his bedroom.

On a recent vacation, I decided enough was enough. Jon had headphones on and was watching videos online while we were at a restaurant. His mother was on her cellphone as I sat there wondering how long I'd wait. Jon's grades have dropped and he doesn't sleep well. I can see he is so connected to his electronics that he's disconnected from people.

While I don't want to seem controlling, I now feel I have a vested interest in the boy. I care about him and see that the constant stimulation is affecting much of his life. I'm not sure he even knows how to make friends.

Should I push for his TV to be taken out of his room? His mother is excellent at setting her own boundaries, but because of her divorce, I think she's reluctant to set boundaries for him.

NEEDS HELP IN CHICAGO

DEAR NEEDS HELP: If you haven't discussed your concerns with Jon's mother, you should, because they are valid. If his grades are suffering and he isn't getting enough rest, it's time for her to step up to the plate and start acting like a parent.

When the three of you are having a meal together, the electronics should be put away, and you and your girlfriend should make a point of including her son in the conversation. At his age, he should be informed about and have an opinion regarding current events. As to removing the television/gaming from his bedroom, his mother should warn him in advance that it will happen if his grades don't improve.

Interacting with others doesn't come naturally to everyone. Developing these skills takes practice. Learning to make eye contact, carry on a conversation and pick up on social cues are skills people learn in person, not by texting. This is a conversation I have had with more than one mental health expert, and it's something parents need to remember when interacting with their children.

DEAR ABBY: My husband wants to help in the kitchen with the dishes. Call me stupid to complain, but he is causing me more work, and I don't know what to do.

This is the second marriage for both of us, and I am trying hard to be a kinder, gentler wife. When my husband washes the dishes, pots and pans, he misses spots, sometimes lots of them. Also, he is impatient and doesn't want to wait the three minutes it takes for the hot water to get to the kitchen, so he washes in cold water.

I tell him I will take care of the dishes, but then he gets upset with me. How do I handle this without hurting his feelings or his pride?

KINDER, GENTLER WIFE

DEAR K.G.W.: Sometimes it's not what we say but how we say it that can hurt someone's feelings or pride. Tell your husband that you love him and know he wants to do this for you, but, respectfully, his "talents" lie elsewhere. Because he is willing to help, entrust him to the important task of doing the rinsing and/or drying.

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



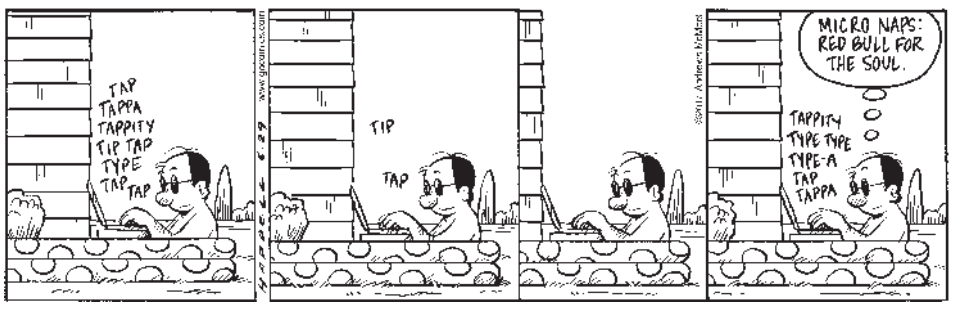
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



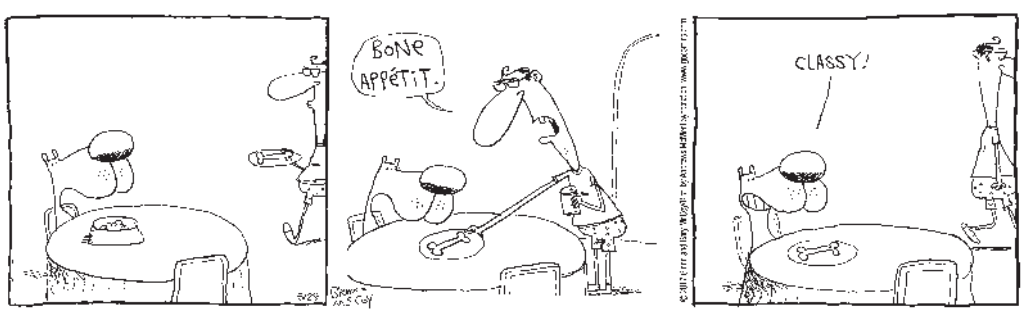
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Skirt edge
4 TV host Kelly
8 Skip
12 Nest egg acronym
13 Holiday lead-ins
14 El —, Texas
15 Afternoon shows
17 Flair
18 First numero
19 Like the king of the jungle
21 Iran, once
24 Bar bill
25 "Exodus" hero
26 Chest bone
28 Doppler device
32 Sanity
34 Pooch
36 Latvia's capital
37 Video chat format
39 Surpass
41 Chest muscle
42 Trio after Q
44 Annie with a gun
46 First book of the Bible
50 Carnival city
51 Others (Lat.)
52 Car interior covering
56 Predicament
57 Nixon successor
58 Carte lead-in
59 Beholds
60 Remain
61 Sawbuck

DOWN
1 That fellow
2 Notable time
3 Adulthood
4 "The Bathers" painter
5 "— had it!"
6 Rind
7 Plus
8 Reception amenity
9 Niger neighbor
10 "This — outrage!"
11 Vocal quality
16 — and outs
20 Rowing need
21 Manhandles
22 Actor Estrada
23 Succor
27 Automaton, for short
29 Embassy worker
30 Screenwriter James
31 Suggestive
33 Elaborate meals
35 Sticky stuff
38 Curved letter
40 Lampoon
43 Squabbles
45 White wine cocktail
46 Yaks
47 Writer Wiesel
48 Baseball team
49 Coin aperture
53 Mouths (Lat.)
54 Hearty brew
55 Light brown

Solution time: 24 mins.

B	I	D		S	N	A	P		F	L	A	T
U	S	A		H	U	M	S		L	A	M	B
R	E	F		A	N	A	S	T	A	S	I	A
P	E	T	A	L			T	U	X			
			S	L	A	G		B	E	G	A	N
S	Y	M	P	O	S	I	A		N	O	L	A
P	C	I		T	E	M	P	T		B	A	D
A	L	M	S		A	M	B	R	O	S	I	A
S	K	I	T	S		E	S	A	U			
			A	I	M			V	I	G	O	R
P	O	L	Y	N	E	S	I	A		U	N	O
O	R	E	O		T	I	K	I		Y	E	A
H	A	I	N		A	X	E	L		S	I	M

Yesterday's answer 6-29

1	2	3	■	4	5	6	7	■	8	9	10	11
12			■	13				■	14			
15			16					■	17			
■	■	18			■	19		20				
21	22				23	■	24			■	■	■
25			■	26		27	■	28		29	30	31
32			33	■	34		35	■	36			
37				38	■	39		40	■	41		
■	■	■	42		43	■	44		45			
46	47	48				49	■	50			■	■
51				■	52		53				54	55
56				■	57				■	58		
59				■	60				■	61		

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Martin Truex Jr., 37; Nicole Scherzinger, 39; Melora Hardin, 50; Gary Busey, 73.

Happy Birthday: Visit the destinations on your bucket list. Searching for information that will give you a better understanding of your heritage will also help you make important changes to the way you live. Keep your living expenses down, and you will enjoy an increased ability to explore new places and enjoy new experiences with your friends and family members. Your numbers are 7, 18, 22, 29, 32, 37, 48.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Emotional deception and ulterior motives are present. Decipher the real meaning behind what someone is saying. Don't act in haste, just slow down and make your next move based on facts. If someone is pressuring you, back away. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* It's OK to do things differently. Be who you are and you will attract the interest of someone who is perfectly suited for collaboration. Love, romance and networking are all featured, so make a point to mingle and have fun. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* You'll be disillusioned by what is going on at home. Read between the lines and ask questions if you are uncertain about specifics that refer to settlements, health matters or legalities. It's best to be informed before making a decision. ✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Plan to visit an old friend or relative. Moving about from one place to another will give you a sense of freedom and a greater chance to discover all you can about different cultures and lifestyles. Attending a retreat will be enlightening. ✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Rethink your budget and recent spending. A more conservative approach to money matters will ease your stress. Generosity can be a wonderful thing as long as it doesn't break the bank. Only donate or offer what you can afford. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Refuse to take on responsibilities that don't belong to you. It's important to build respect and put a stop to being used by someone demanding. Stand up for your rights and you will get what you want. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Size up whatever situation you face at work or at home. Overreaction based on speculation will result in regret. Discipline and controlling your emotions will help you avoid turmoil. Excessive behavior will lead to trouble. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Personal and professional partnerships are favored. Business trips, interviews and well-considered plans will help you excel. Plan to do something special with someone you love, and good things will transpire. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Separate your personal and professional lives. Letting your emotions interfere will affect your job performance. Don't limit your chance to get ahead just because someone is giving you a hard time. Stay focused and finish what you start. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Try something new. Make physical improvements that will encourage you to head in a direction you've wanted to go in for some time. Knowing what you want and planning carefully will lead to the success you crave. Romance is highlighted. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Open up about the way you feel and the plans you want to put into play. You may face opposition, but discussing the future with someone your choices will affect will help you find out where you stand. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Take time to nurture your relationships with others. Whether it's with your children, a sibling, peer or lover, the time spent listening and showing interest will improve your connection. Personal physical improvements can be made. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are caring, helpful and insightful. You are interesting and admired.

Eugenia's websites — eugenialast.com for Ask Eugenia, daily timing and compatibility services, and join Eugenia on twitter/facebook/linkedin.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		9	6		1			
	2					9		
			5		2			7
8		1				5		6
				3				
3		7				4		2
2			3		6			
	5						2	
			8		7	1		

Difficulty Level ★★★ 6/29

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

8	9	6	4	2	1	7	3	5
4	3	5	9	6	7	2	8	1
2	7	1	8	5	3	6	4	9
1	8	7	6	3	2	5	9	4
9	2	4	5	7	8	1	6	3
6	5	3	1	9	4	8	2	7
3	6	2	7	1	9	4	5	8
7	4	9	2	8	5	3	1	6
5	1	8	3	4	6	9	7	2

Difficulty level ★★★ 6/29

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

ERIN MORAN (1960-2017) **Solution: 7 letters**

F	Y	S	H	A	R	O	N	D	A	K	T	A	R	I
E	L	T	Y	S	N	E	W	T	O	N	W	O	H	S
R	L	E	O	A	R	S	L	O	V	E	S	C	O	M
G	E	V	I	M	D	A	I	K	T	S	A	C	L	S
U	K	E	E	S	B	Y	T	T	N	H	I	I	L	I
S	T	N	I	D	C	O	P	S	C	I	F	G	Y	T
O	E	H	T	N	W	H	S	P	D	O	W	A	W	I
N	I	O	O	O	A	A	M	L	A	L	M	M	O	T
N	H	W	Y	K	C	O	R	A	E	H	I	H	O	E
R	C	A	S	N	H	O	J	D	N	Y	A	H	D	E
E	I	R	A	M	A	H	G	N	I	N	N	U	C	W
T	R	D	E	A	R	G	O	D	I	T	T	O	C	S
S	N	O	T	L	A	W	I	D	T	E	N	Y	A	W
I	N	D	I	A	N	A	R	A	H	O	T	E	L	O
S	M	I	T	H	F	A	M	I	L	Y	R	N	E	H

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Cast, Chachi, Child Star, Cunningham, Daktari, Dear God, Dinah, Edward, Family, Ferguson, Film, Fleischmann, Happy Days, Henry, Hollywood, Hotel, Howard, How Sweet It Is, Indiana, Joanie, John, Kelly, Loves, Magic, Marie, Newton, O'Hara, Richie, Rocky, Scott, Sharon, Show, Sister, Sitcom, Smith, Steven, Tom Bosley, Toys, Waltons, Wayne, Winkler

Yesterday's Answer: Pius XIII

To purchase the **WONDERWORD MILLENNIUM SERIES #1 or #2**, order online at: www.WonderWordBooks.com. (Contains 100 puzzles.)

CLASSIFIED ADS

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB17-DLNR/DFW-172-CIF ROTA

SUBMISSION: JULY 28, 2017 **TIME: 10:00 A.M.**

"PURCHASE OF A 4X4 / S/B CREW CAB/FOUR (4) DOORS (OFF-ROAD PACKAGE) PICK UP TRUCK FOR THE DLNR – DIV. OF FISH AND WILDLIFE – WILDLIFE RESTORATION"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ANTHONY T. BENAVENTE
ACTING SECRETARY OF DLNR

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Position: Senior Accountant

Job Description: Analyze Financial Information and Prepare Income Statements, Cash Flows and Balance Sheet and Maintain Record of Assets and liabilities; Prepares Individual and Corporate Tax Returns.

Minimum Qualifications: With a college degree in Accounting and at least 10 years of relevant work experience in accounting works.

Job Site: Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

How to Apply: Submit a professional resume to:

BURGER & COMER, P.C.
Office Address: Suite 203, MHII Building, Marina Heights, Business Park, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 504053 Saipan, MP 96950

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Position: Senior Auditor

Job Description: Examines and analyzes accounting records to determine financial status of establishments; Reviews data regarding material assets, net worth, liabilities, capital stock, surplus, income, and expenditures; Inspects items in books of original entry to determine if accepted accounting procedures were followed in recording transactions; Evaluates results of audit procedures performed and determines the appropriate courses of action in response to audit issues and potential findings; Prepares report for management concerning scope of audits, financial conditions found and source and application of funds;

Minimum Qualifications: With a college degree in Accounting and at least 10 years of relevant work experience in auditing works.

Job Site: Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

How to Apply: Submit a professional resume to:

BURGER & COMER, P.C.
Office Address: Suite 203, MHII Building, Marina Heights, Business Park, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 504053 Saipan, MP 96950

LSG Sky Chefs

LSG SKY CHEFS is looking to hire qualified U.S. workers for the following positions:

Operations Supervisor (1)

- Graduated from a recognized college or university with an Associate's or Bachelor's Degree in public or business administration or closely related field.
- Three to four years of professional and managerial experience in hotel operational activities; airport operational activities; or airline catering activities; or any equivalent combination of experience and training which provides the preferable knowledge, abilities and skills.
- Have knowledge of business practices and procedures;
- Knowledge of market trends in support adjacent markets.
- Must be proficient in the use of the English language (written and oral)
- Must be computer literate and proficient in Microsoft Office (Word, Excel)
- Good communication skills with acceptable telephone manner.
- Good organizational skills.
- Able to make independent, well thought out decisions.
- Must be a US Citizen with US Passport;
- Must be dependable and flexible.

Applications are available at the Main Office located on airport road, situated between American Red Cross Office and Historic Preservation Office, or send resume to rita.taitano@lsgskychefs.com. Deadline for submission is Friday, June 30, 2017.

INVITATION TO BID
MVA-ITB-17-2003

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

GARAPAN AREA TRASH COLLECTION SERVICE

Deadline Submission Date: July 5, 2017 Time: 3:00pm

Submit sealed ITB to: Procurement Office
Marianas Visitors Authority
P.O. Box 500861 CK
Saipan, MP 96950

A Mandatory Pre-BID Conference will be held on **Monday, June 12, 2017 at 9:00 AM** in the main conference room at the MVA office in San Jose. A site walk will be conducted immediately after the pre-BID in order to further explain the project, and allow interested firms to become familiarized with the site. No BID will be accepted from any firm which fails to attend this mandatory pre-BID conference and site walk.

Interested parties may pick up the scope of work at the Marianas Visitors Authority office between 8:00 am to 5:00 pm., Monday to Friday, except holidays or by visiting the MVA website at www.mymarianas.com

/s/ Marian Aldan-Pierce
MVA Chair, Board of Directors

/s/ Christopher A. Concepcion
Managing Director

Northern Marianas College

P.O. Box 501250 CK, Saipan, MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6858/6855 • Fax: (670) 235-3696
Website: http://www.marianas.edu

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Re-Announcement No. 17-045

Position Title:	**Program Manager II (Prior Learning Assessment)**
Department:	Academic Programs & Services
Pay Level & Step:	20/01 – 20/02
Annual Salary:	$39,256.46 - $40,630.43
Location:	As Terlaje Campus, Saipan
Opening Date: June 21, 2017	Closing Date: Until Filled

Announcement No. 17-041

Position Title:	**Director of Marketing & Communications**
Department:	Office of Institutional Advancement
Pay Level & Step:	25/Steps 01-04
Annual Salary:	$49,864.16 - $55,285.29
Location:	As Terlaje Campus, Saipan
Opening Date: June 20, 2017	Closing Date: Until Filled

Announcement No. 17-043

Position Title:	**Accountant IV (Chief Accountant)**
Department:	Finance
Pay Level & Step:	25/01 – 25/02
Annual Salary:	$49,864.16 - $51,609.41
Location:	As Terlaje Campus, Saipan
Opening Date: June 23, 2017	Closing Date: Until Filled

Announcement No. 17-040

Position Title:	**Instructor-Professor, Elementary Education**
Department:	School of Education
Pay Level & Step:	27-31/Step 01
Annual Salary:	$43,188.94 - $53,604.43
Location:	As Terlaje Campus, Saipan
Opening Date: June 23, 2017	Closing Date: Until Filled

Announcement No. 17-039

Position Title:	**Student Leadership Coordinator**
Department:	Student Services
Pay Level & Step:	20/01 – 20/02
Annual Salary:	$39,256.46 - $40,630.43
Location:	As Terlaje Campus, Saipan
Opening Date: June 21, 2017	Closing Date: Until Filled

Announcement No. 17-038

Position Title:	**Grants Coordinator**
Department:	Office of Institutional Advancement
Pay Level & Step:	24/01 – 24/04
Annual Salary:	$47,534.95 - $52,702.85
Location:	As Terlaje Campus, Saipan
Opening Date: June 23, 2017	Closing Date: Until Filled

Applications must be submitted by 4:30 pm on the closing date. If there are no qualified applicants or the set of qualified applicants is deemed an insufficient pool, the closing date will be extended for two-week periods for further submission and review of applications until the search is closed. Deadlines that fall on a non-business day will be extended to the next business day. All salaries are subject to availability of funds. The College is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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Scherzer sharp as Washington beats Cubs



AP

Chicago Cubs starting pitcher Jake Arrieta delivers a pitch during the first inning of a baseball game against the Washington Nationals, Tuesday, June 27, 2017, in Washington.

WASHINGTON (AP)— Max Scherzer pitched six sharp innings, Trea Turner had four of Washington's seven steals and the Nationals beat Jake Arrieta and the Chicago Cubs 6-1 on Tuesday in a showdown of the past two NL Cy Young Award winners.

Scherzer (9-5) struck out six, walked none and retired 16 of his final 17 batters. The right-hander allowed an earned run in the first inning for the first time since April and his streak of 10-plus strikeout games ended at six, but he was in control almost all night.

Arrieta (7-6) issued a season-high six walks and allowed five earned runs, getting the hook two batters into the fifth inning. Arrieta and catcher Miguel Montero allowed seven steals, matching the Montreal Expos/Nationals franchise record.

Michael Taylor had two hits and two RBIs for Washington, and Scherzer washed out the RBI triple he allowed to Kris Bryant in the first by driving in a run with an infield single in the fourth.

Diamondbacks 6, Cardinals 5

In Phoenix, Arizona, Chris Herrmann hit a game-ending RBI single in the 10th inning as Arizona Diamondbacks rallied to beat St. Louis Cardinals.

The surging Diamondbacks scored two in the eighth and one in the ninth to force extra innings. They have won four in a row and 13 of 15.

Rey Fuentes opened the Arizona 10th with a single and advanced on a sacrifice by pinch-hitting pitcher Zack Godley. Herrmann singled off Matt Bowman (1-3).

Diamondbacks closer Fernando Rodney (2-2) pitched a 1-2-3 10th inning for the win.

Dodgers 4, Angels 0

In Los Angeles, Dodgers right-hander Kenta Maeda pitched four-hit ball over seven innings in a spot start, and Joc Pederson hit a three-run homer.

Maeda (6-3) was moved to the bullpen earlier this month, but filled in Tuesday to give the rotation an extra day of rest. He stuck out six and walked none.

Angels starter Jesse Chavez (5-8) was pulled in the sixth after getting into a jam, and Cody Bellinger greeted Jose Alvarez with an RBI single. Pederson hit his seventh home run two batters later.

The Dodgers have won 17 of 19 and lead the National League with a 52-27 record.

Rangers 2, Indians 1

In Cleveland, Adrian Beltre hit his 450th home run, a solo drive in the ninth inning off Cody Allen that lifted the Rangers to the road win.

Beltre drove the first pitch from Allen (0-4) into the left-field bleachers. The third baseman moved into sole possession of 39th place on the career homer list.

Keone Kela (4-1) stranded a runner in the eighth. Matt Bush allowed Michael Brantley's one-out single in the ninth while getting his 10th save.

Indians manager Terry Francona missed the game after his second trip to the hospital this month. Bench coach Brad Mills filled in for Francona, who is expected to return Wednesday.

Red Sox 9, Twins 2

In Boston, Chris Young hit a three-run homer, Christian Vazquez went deep for the first time in more than a year and the Red Sox beat the Twins in a game delayed twice by stormy weather.

Drew Pomeranz (7-4) pitched five effective innings for Boston, which won consecutive games for the first time in nearly two weeks. Dustin Pedroia had three hits and scored twice.

The Red Sox capitalized on three errors by the Twins and took over first place in the AL East, moving a half-game ahead of the slumping Yankees.

Hector Santiago (4-7) returned for the Twins after a stint on the 10-day disabled list with a strained left shoulder. He allowed two runs and one hit in two innings.

White Sox 4, Yankees 3

In Chicago, Jose Abreu hit a game-ending, two-run single off Dellin Betances, and the White Sox stopped a four-game losing streak.

Kevan Smith sparked the winning rally with a one-out walk. Betances (3-2) then walked Alen Hanson and hit Yolmer Sanchez, loading the bases.

After Melky Cabrera fouled out, Abreu hit a grounder into left field. Brett Gardner's throw to the plate was high, and Hanson scored easily.

Abreu also had an RBI double in the third. Dan Jennings (3-1) pitched 1 1/3 scoreless innings for the win.

New York wasted an outstanding start by Luis Severino, who struck out a career-high 12 while pitching seven innings of one-run ball. It has dropped three of four and 11 of 14 overall.

Marlins 6, Mets 3

In Miami, Ichiro Suzuki had a pinch-hit RBI single in the seventh inning to put Miami ahead, and Christian Yelich collected three hits for the Marlins.

Suzuki poked a pitch to the opposite field against Jerry Blevins for a 4-3 lead. The 43-year-old Suzuki leads the majors with 12 pinch hits.

Yelich added a two-run single in the seventh. Kyle Barraclough (4-1) got the win and A.J. Ramos pitched around a leadoff single in the ninth for his 13th save.

New York's Robert Gsellman left with a strained left hamstring after he pulled up trying to beat out a grounder in the third inning. The injury-plagued Mets have already had five starting pitchers on the disabled list this year.

Curtis Granderson and Travis d'Arnaud homered for New York. Neil Ramirez (0-1) got the loss.

Orioles 3, Blue Jays 1

In Toronto, Kevin Gausman won for the first time in four starts, Mark Trumbo hit an RBI double and Baltimore earned its third straight win.

The Orioles improved to 8-2 against the Blue Jays this season. Toronto lost for the fifth time in seven games.

Gausman (4-7) allowed four hits in 5 1/3 scoreless innings. The right-hander was 0-3 with a 9.20 ERA over his previous three starts.

Brad Brach gave up a two-out homer to Troy Tulowitzki in the ninth but held on for his 14th save.

Toronto right-hander Joe Biagini (2-7) allowed three runs in 5 1/3 innings, losing for the fifth time in six starts.

Athletics 6, Astros 4

In Houston, Ryon Healy's first career grand slam broke a tie in the sixth inning, and Oakland held on for its fourth straight win.

The score was 1-1 when Matt Joyce singled to start the sixth. Yonder Alonso drew a walk with two outs to load the bases and chase Mike Fiers (5-3). He was replaced by James Hoyt, who was greeted with Healy's 18th homer — a full-count shot which landed in the second row of the seats in right field.

A's left-hander Sean Manaea (7-4) allowed a season-high nine hits, but just one run in 5 2/3 innings.

Phillies 8, Mariners 2

In Seattle, Maikel Franco and Arron Altherr homered for Philadelphia, and Aaron Nola pitched seven strong innings.

Franco opened the seventh with his 10th home run, sending a 1-0 pitch from James Paxton over the wall in left-center. The Phillies made it 4-2 in the eighth on an RBI single by Freddy Galvis and then added four unearned runs in the ninth, capped by Altherr's two-run homer.

Nola (5-5) gave up five hits, including Jean Segura's two-run homer in the third. He struck out a season-high nine.

Paxton (5-3) gave up four hits in seven innings. He struck out nine and walked three in losing his third consecutive decision.

Rays 4, Pirates 2, 10 innings

In Pittsburgh, David Freese misplayed a grounder at third base, allowing Steven Souza Jr. to score in the 10th inning and sending Tampa Bay to the victory.

With Souza at first base and no outs, Wilson Ramos hit a hard grounder off Felipe Rivero (3-2) that Freese missed while trying to backhand. Adeiny Hechavarria added a sacrifice fly, giving him two RBIs in his first game since being traded from the Miami Marlins on Monday.

Tommy Hunter pitched the 10th for his first save of the season.

The Pirates were no-hit through six innings by Alex Cobb, but Andrew McCutchen forced extra innings with a two-run double in the ninth.

Tigers 5, Royals 3

In Detroit, J.D. Martinez and Miguel Cabrera homered for Detroit, and Justin Verlander pitched seven strong innings.

Verlander (5-4) was down 3-0 before getting an out, but didn't allow another run as the Tigers won their second straight after an eight-game losing streak. He gave up nine hits, struck out six and walked one.

Justin Wilson pitched the ninth for his seventh save.

Matt Strahm (2-5) gave up five runs and six hits in 3 2/3 innings for the Royals.

Reds 8, Brewers 6

In Cincinnati, Joey Votto hit a tiebreaking two-run homer in the fifth inning, helping the last-place Reds get the win.

Billy Hamilton, Adam Duvall and Eugenio Suarez also connected for Cincinnati, which scored its most runs in 19 games since Scooter Gennett hit four homers in its 13-1 win over St. Louis on June 6. Tim Adleman (5-4) pitched five innings and Raisel Iglesias got three outs for his 13th save.

Milwaukee slugger Ryan Braun returned after missing 31 games with a strained left calf, but the NL Central-leading Brewers lost for the third time in four games. Braun went 1 for 5 with a double.

Travis Shaw, Manny Pina and Orlando Arcia homered for Milwaukee. Junior Guerra (1-2) set a career high by allowing eight runs in four-plus innings.

Braves 3, Padres 0

In San Diego, Braves left-hander Sean Newcomb struck out eight over six-plus innings for his first major league victory.

Atlanta has won eight of 10. Johan Camargo had a two-run double off the left field wall in the fourth to begin the scoring, and Atlanta added an unearned run in the eighth.

Newcomb (1-2) allowed six hits and walked one. He made his major league debut June 10 and has a 1.48 ERA through four starts.

Padres starter Jhoulys Chacin (6-7) pitched seven innings of two-run ball.

Jim Johnson struck out three in the ninth for his 16th save.

Giants 4, Rockies 3

In San Francisco, Denard Span singled home Gorkys Hernandez with two outs in the 14th inning, lifting the Giants over Colorado.

The Giants went cold after Kelby Tomlinson's tying single in the eighth inning before rallying to win off Chad Qualls (1-1).

Hernandez lined a one-out double over the head of left fielder Ian Desmond. After Qualls struck out Gearrin, Span hit a 1-0 pitch into right field, and Hernandez scored easily.

The Giants raced out of the dugout and chased Span into the outfield, celebrating their second straight win over Colorado after nine consecutive losses to their NL West rival.

Gearrin (2-2) pitched three scoreless innings to win after the Giants rallied from a 3-1 deficit.

Cavaliers watch NBA draft as Billups watch continues

CLEVELAND (AP)—No pick. No picker.

Unable to pull off a trade or move into the first round of the NBA draft, the Cleveland Cavaliers didn't add any significant player Thursday or fill a major hole in their front office.

A stumbling start to the offseason staggers on.

Owner Dan Gilbert's search to replace departed general manager David Griffin remains unresolved as talks with former NBA star Chauncey Billups have not progressed to a job offer. Two people familiar with the negotiations told The Associated Press on Thursday that Gilbert has not yet extended a contract proposal to Billups to head the team's front office.

Gilbert met on consecutive days earlier this week with Billups, who aspires to be an NBA executive and is at the top of Cleveland's wish list. But the discussions have not advanced to a job proposal, said the people who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitive nature of the talks.

Billups, a five-time All-Star player with an impeccable reputation around the league, lacks front-office experience. But Gilbert knows him well and could be ready to put him in charge of retooling a roster that was exposed as getting old and not nearly deep enough in the Finals against Golden State.

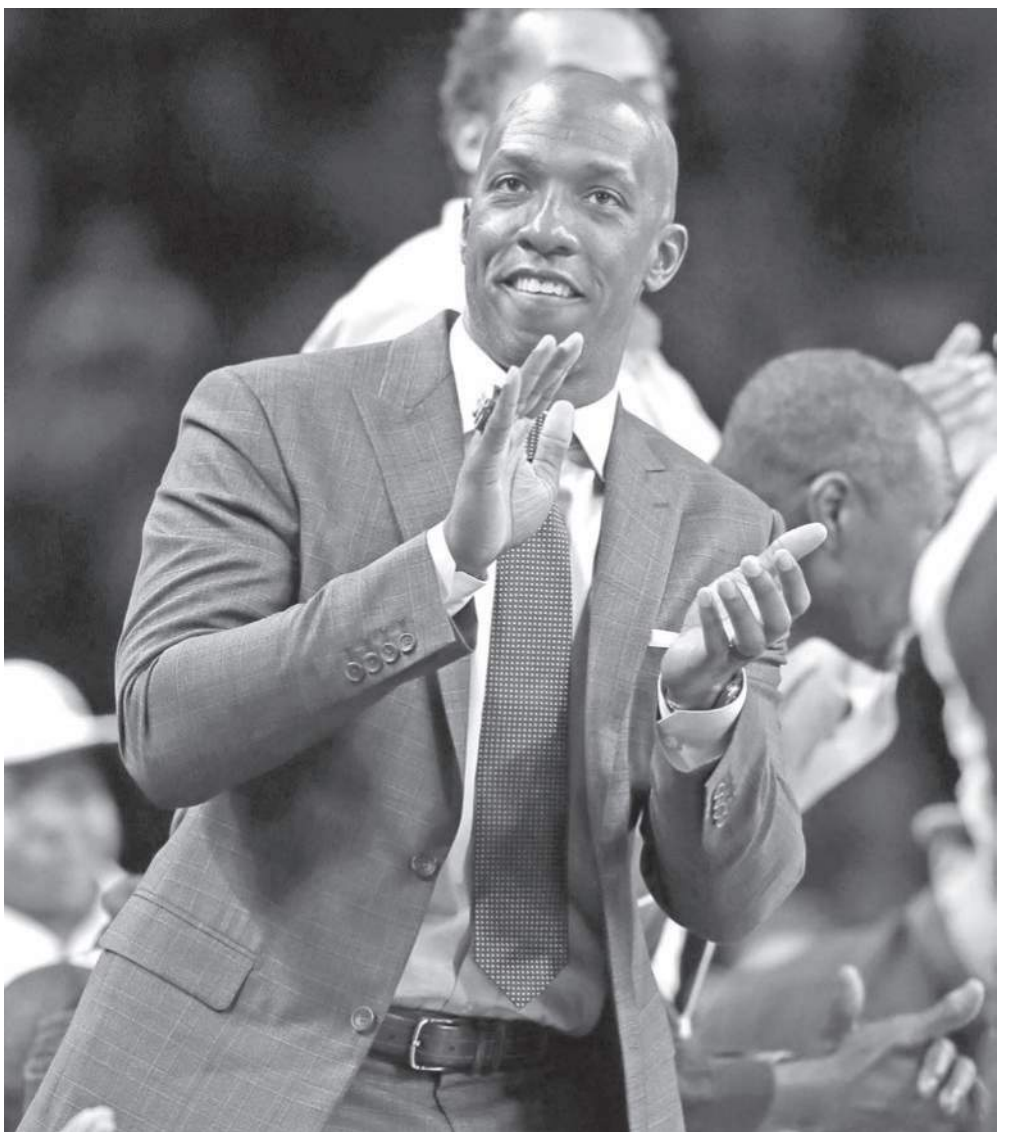
While the Billups situation remained in flux, Cleveland's GM-less front office led by assistant GM Koby Altman, worked the phones trying to make a draft-day trade. Nothing materialized, but not for any lack of effort and the Cavs, who have dealt numerous picks in recent years to build around LeBron James, will now focus on stabilizing their front office before free agency opens next month.

As Gilbert looks to replace Griffin, the 40-year-old Billups would seem to be a perfect fit.

On the other hand, Cleveland might not be ideal for Billups.

The Finals MVP in 2004 when Detroit upset a Los Angeles Lakers "Super Team" with Kobe Bryant, Shaquille O'Neal, Karl Malone and Gary Payton, Billups has championship pedigree. Billups was one of the leaders on Pistons teams that played in six consecutive conference finals, so he understands the necessary commitment to stay among the league's elite teams.

Billups also has a long-term relationship with Gilbert from his days in Detroit and he's close friends with Cavs coach Tyronn Lue, another journeyman guard who has found success in the next chapter of his basketball life.



AP

In this Wednesday, Feb. 10, 2016 file photo, former Detroit Pistons Chauncey Billups acknowledges the crowd before an NBA basketball game against the Denver Nuggets in Auburn Hills, Mich.

Billups lacks front office experience, but Gilbert would likely allow him to bring in someone to help his transition.

For Billups, any decision to join the Cavs may be more complicated.

The Cavs are loaded with talent at the top with James, Kyrie Irving and Kevin Love coming off their second straight Finals together—Love was injured when Cleveland made it in 2015—and there's no reason to think they won't win the Eastern Conference again. But in building their "Big 3," the Cavs exhausted assets to add quality players to the bench unless they're willing to part with one of their stars.

The next GM or president of basketball operations will need to be creative to keep Cleveland rolling.

Billups, who previously interviewed with Atlanta about a front-office gig, may not want his first as a major decision-maker to be with a franchise as high profile as the Cavs, who are under constant scrutiny and pressure. That's the deal for any team with James and the weight will only grow next season as the three-time champion nears free agency again.

James could bolt Cleveland for the second time, and this time there would be no return as he'll be 33 and looking to end his career.

But that's a worry for next June. The more immediate concern is for Gilbert, who has gone through four GMs in 12 years as Cleveland's owner, to find someone to oversee the daily operations.

And beyond the basketball, if Billups is picked by Gilbert, he'll also have to juggle whether to uproot his family from its home in Denver and walk away from a cushy TV analyst job, a position he's handled as smoothly as a double team during his playing days.

It will be a lot for Billups to consider.

If he turns them down, the Cavs will have even more to handle in a summer that's just begun.

NBA draft draws second-largest audience on ESPN

NEW YORK (AP)—The NBA draft averaged more than 3.5 million viewers, the second-biggest audience ever on ESPN.

The telecast Thursday peaked with 5.2 million viewers from 8:15 to 8:30 p.m. EDT, shortly after the first picks were made. Philadelphia took Markelle Fultz with the No. 1 selection and the Los Angeles Lakers went with fellow freshman guard Lonzo Ball at No. 2.

The only larger audience was for the 2015 draft, the network said Friday.

Pacquiao going big, or going bust in the Battle of Brisbane

BRISBANE, Australia (AP)—Freddie Roach is ready to narrow down Manny Pacquiao's options following the WBO welterweight championship fight against Jeff Horn: Think about another shot at Floyd Mayweather, or think about retirement.

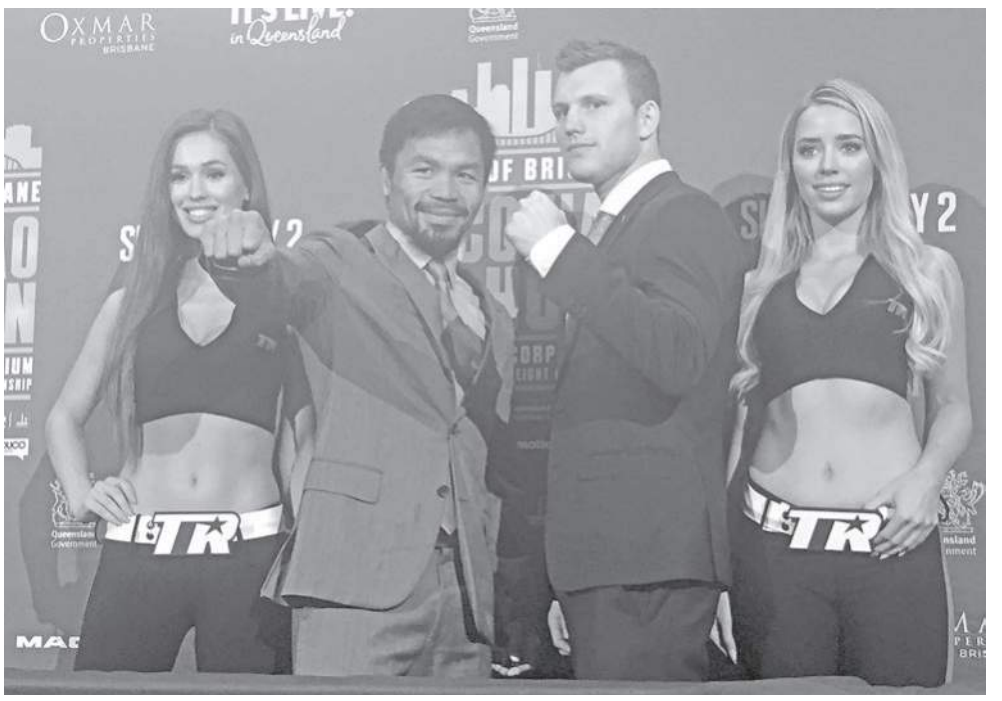
The 11-time world champion is putting his WBO belt on the line Sunday against the 29-year-old Australian, a school teacher who is in the biggest bout of his professional career.

"Manny is in a must-win situation. He wants a rematch with Mayweather," Roach said Tuesday at a gym next door to the Suncorp Stadium, where a 50,000-plus crowd is expected for the "Battle of Brisbane."

"With Mayweather you have to look good against an opponent, you have to be impressive."

Roach has been a long-time trainer for the multiple world champion, and reckons the 38-year-old Pacquiao should have a few more big wins in him.

"If he struggles in this fight, it could be over," Roach said.



AP

Boxers Manny Pacquiao of the Philippines, second left, and Jeff Horn of Australia, second right, pose for a photo in Brisbane, Wednesday, June 28, 2017.

Asked specifically what the fallout would be if Horn (16-0-1, 11 knockouts) somehow won, Roach said "depending on how he lost, I would probably encourage him to retire."

Not that he's expecting Pacquiao (59-6-2, 38 knockouts) to struggle. Roach said training has consisted of 50 rounds on some days and the preparation—after a slow start—has been very intense.

"I expect Manny's best in this fight. I am looking for a big win here," Roach said. "We want to go on to bigger and better things."

Pacquiao lost the 2015 mega fight to Mayweather but has rebounded to beat Tim Bradley and Jessie Vargas on points since then. He wants another shot at Mayweather.

"If there's a chance, why not? I'm willing," Pacquiao said of a potential rematch with Mayweather, who has visited Roach's gym a couple of times—though not to discuss business. "But let's focus first for this fight. We don't want to underestimate ... Horn, thinking about another fight. This fight is not done yet.

"I know my body. I'm ready. I'm not underestimating (Horn). I'm not taking him lightly. I'm working hard."

Horn turned pro in 2013, the year after reaching the Olympic quarterfinals in London, and has faced 10 top-15 rated boxers in his 17 professional bouts. He hasn't faced anyone of the caliber of Pacquiao, though.

The Pacquiao camp is expecting Horn to come out aggressively in front of his home crowd, and so the preparation has been tailored to that.

A world champion in eight divisions, and now a senator in the Philippines, Pacquiao can still remember the feelings he had ahead of his first big-time bout and is treading carefully because of that.

"That's why we did a lot for this training camp," Pacquiao said. "I know what he's feeling—being there, being the underdog."

It won't mean he'll take it any easier in the ring.

"All I can say is, it's good he's a teacher," Pacquiao said. "I'm a teacher in the ring."

FIFA publishes Garcia report on 2018-2022 World Cup bidding

SOCHI, Russia (AP)—After years of intrigue about allegedly corrupt World Cup bidding, FIFA published an investigation report Tuesday that showed how voters exploited the murky system yet allowed Russia and Qatar to host the 2018 and 2022 tournaments.

FIFA published investigator Michael Garcia's 430-page dossier less than 24 hours after Germany's biggest-selling daily Bild began reporting extracts from a leaked copy it received.

The full report verified the broad conclusions of a summary of Garcia's work published by FIFA in November 2014.

A Russia bid backed by Vladimir Putin gave limited cooperation to Garcia's team which found no evidence of undue influence. Putin met six of 22 FIFA voters before the December 2010 elections.

Qatar's ultimate victory over the United States tested FIFA's bid rules to the limit. The bid team used a full range of lavishly funded state and sports agencies, plus advisers who raised Garcia's suspicions.

Garcia's report was once a holy grail for FIFA critics who hoped it would be explosive and force a re-run of the World Cup hosting votes.

Many believed Russian and Qatari bids must have behaved badly to persuade a FIFA executive committee lineup in 2010 that has since been widely discredited.



AP

In this Thursday, Dec. 2, 2010 file photo, Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani, Emir of Qatar, left, gets the World Cup trophy by FIFA President Joseph Blatter, right, after the announcement of Qatar hosting the 2022 soccer World Cup in Zurich, Switzerland.

"Bid teams operated in an environment where a number of (voters) did not hesitate to exploit a system that in certain respects did not bind them to the same rules applicable to bid teams," Garcia wrote, noting that some FIFA officials "sought to obtain personal favors or benefits."

Some of those same FIFA officials have since been indicted by the U.S. Department of Justice in a widespread racketeering case that is ongoing.

Garcia's team did not have the evidence-gathering powers of a criminal probe and it was clear they would be hampered even before starting a globe-trotting 2013-14 investigation.

His full report detailed how: FIFA voters refused to be interviewed; bid teams such as Russia and Spain were evasive; potential key witnesses could not be tracked down.

Garcia's work also has been overtaken since he delivered it to FIFA's then ethics judge in September 2014.

A 42-page summary written by German judge Hans Joachim Eckert was published two months later and disputed by Garcia. Their public falling out prompted FIFA to pass the dossier and supporting evidence to Switzerland's attorney general for review.

The true significance of Garcia might only be seen once Swiss authorities have completed their work. It started with suspected money laundering linked to the World Cup bids and extended to other areas of FIFA business.

Around 25 investigations have been launched, the Swiss federal prosecution office said this month, using more than 170 suspect bank transactions as evidence.

Swiss investigators have shared evidence in recent years with the FBI and U.S. prosecutors who have indicted or taken guilty pleas from more than 40 football and marketing officials.

Russia has repeatedly denied wrongdoing since 2010, though the report confirmed that leased computers used by Russia's bid campaign were later destroyed.

Staffers' email accounts were also never retrieved from Google for Garcia's deputy who oversaw the Russia section of a nine-candidate investigation. Russia had previously banned Garcia from the country over his prosecution of a Russian arms dealer in the U.S.

Qatari organizers of the 2022 tournament have also consistently denied wrongdoing. They declined to comment Tuesday.

Both World Cup host nations could claim victory though neither can be sure exactly in which direction prosecutors in Brooklyn and Bern will head next.

FIFA forced publication of the Garcia Report on a rest day at the Confederations Cup —the rehearsal tournament in Russia to test its readiness for the 2018 World Cup.

"For the sake of transparency, FIFA welcomes the news that this report has now been finally published," world football's governing body said in a statement.

Garcia's team found "no evidence" Russia's bid team or Vladimir Putin, then prime minister and now president, unduly influenced FIFA voters.

In helping the United States' bid, then-President Barack Obama hosted a total of three FIFA voters at the White House in two separate visits. Former President Bill Clinton was lobbying voters in Zurich until hours before they gave Qatar a 14-8 win,

"Leaders of most, if not all, 2018 and 2022 bid nations spoke directly with FIFA Executive Committee members," Garcia noted.

The then-Emir of Qatar was closely tied to his gas-rich nation's bid before he lifted the World Cup trophy in Zurich on voting day.

"There was one specific incident concerning 'government involvement' with the Qatar bid that did raise concerns," Garcia wrote of the Emir hosting South America's FIFA voters who flew by private jet to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

All three voters have since been identified in a U.S. justice department indictment for taking bribes from broadcast deals.

MICRONESIAN

From Page 28

pionships will be held from June 14 to 16, while two other regions will have their own competitions. The 2018 Melanesian Championships will be held in Port Villa, Vanuatu from May 17 to 19, while Apia, Samoa will host the 2018 Polynesian Championships that will take place from Sept. 6 to 8.

In the Micronesian Championships, the CNMI will be joined by athletes from Guam, the Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Palau, and Nauru. The Polynesian Championships will feature American Samoa, Cook Islands, Niue, New Zealand, Tahiti, Tonga, and Tuvali, while Australia is entered in the Melanesian Championships along with Fiji, New Caledonia, Norfolk Island, Solomon Islands, and Wallis and Futuna.

Meanwhile, all three regions are competing in the 2017 Oceania Area Championship, which kicked off yesterday at the ANZ Stadium in Suva.

Annalei Santos and Beo Ngirchongor saw action for the CNMI in Day 1 of the tournament with the former competing in the shot put throw and the latter racing in the qualifier for the 400m run. Santos posted 19.86m in the women's U18 shot put and missed the podium. Australia's Stephanie Scigala won the gold medal with her 40.39m. In the 400m run, Ngirchongor joined Heat No. 3 and timed in at 57.46 seconds, which did not make the grade and was slower than his personal best of 52.74 seconds.

Five other CNMI athletes are competing in Fiji and Zarinae Sapong, Traven Quitugua, Riella Ann Billy Ichiou, Jamie Pangelinan, and Leani Acosta will have their events today and tomorrow.

OL'ACES

From Page 28

Rollers/DYS after combining for 25 points. Three other Ol'Aces players chipped in at least 8 points each.

The Ol'Aces were just ahead by 3 after the first period, 19-16, before they pulled away in the second, posting a 43-26 halftime advantage. Kabiriel led the breakaway, scoring 9 points in the pivotal period, while Siech chipped in 6.

The NMI Rollers/DYS bounced back from the loss with a close 64-63 overtime victory over the Kagman Rollers (5-7) last Monday.

Manny Cobacha scored 7 points in overtime, while Warren Ellama made the go-ahead basket to help NMI Rollers/DYS escape Kagman Rollers. In regulation, NMI Rollers/DYS leaned on Jude Tengco's 8 points in the fourth quarter to force the extension.

In the other game last Monday, Natibu Warriors outclassed Kagman Sparks, 44-37. Rawhoo Sulap paced Natibu with his 13 points.

Natibu improved to a 7-5 record (unofficial) and is already assured of a slot in the eight-team single elimination playoffs. The Ol'Aces, 670 Sonics XVI and XVIII, Ol'Aces Elite, Mt. Carmel School, Warriors, and Kagman Rollers are also moving on to the next round, but the pairings in the playoffs have yet to be determined as two more make-up games were played last night and results were unavailable at press time. The playoff round will start on July 5 with the following pairings: No. 1 vs 8; No. 2 vs No.7; No. 3 vs No. 6; and No. 4 vs No. 5 in the final team standings. The O'Aces Extreme, Northside Wolves, Kagman Sparks, and Agape Christian School missed the cut.

SWEEP

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out the last two PH batters. The Philippines had another opportunity to make it to the board in the fifth inning, but Kenneth Torres was stuck at third after Huang struck out Rodelito Oleato for the third out.

The Philippines' loss to Chinese-Taipei came just a day after the former won back-to-back games against the CNMI. The Philippines scored in the first three innings and held the CNMI scoreless in the first six innings to take a 7-1 victory in their second meeting. Their first duel held last Tuesday afternoon ended in similar scores.

The CNMI also dropped a heartbreaker against Hong Kong in its last game in the elimination. Hong Kong withstood the hosts' late rally to pull off a 7-6 victory.

Hong Kong led, 5-2, after five complete innings, but was threatened at the top of the sixth when the CNMI forced a deadlock, 5-all. However, the visiting team regained its bearings after tallying two runs in the seventh inning to deny the CNMI the win. Hong Kong finished the tournament with a 2-4 card, while the CNMI had a 1-5 record.

Meanwhile, in the Senior League division, the Philippines eked out a similar close victory against Guam, 8-7, to finish on top of the three-team field.

The Philippines ended the preliminary round with a 3-1 record, while Guam had an even 2-2 mark. The CNMI finished with only one win (versus Guam) in four games.

Ethan Mitschiener scored the winning run off a passed ball at the bottom of the seventh inning. The Philippines entered the last inning behind, 4-7, as Guam rallied at the top of the seventh, recording three runs after failing to hit the board from the third to sixth to break the standoff. However, the Philippines fought back, too as Ezekiel Laygo, Lorenzo Montemayor, and Marcel Guzman posted the first three runs for the PH at the bottom of the seventh to tie the match anew before Mitschiener made the dagger with Guam just one out away from forcing an extra inning.

The Philippines and Guam will collide again today at 1pm for the World Series ticket.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	43	34	.558	—
New York	41	34	.547	1
Tampa Bay	41	38	.519	3
Baltimore	38	38	.500	4½
Toronto	36	40	.474	6½

Central Division

Cleveland	40	36	.526	—
Minnesota	39	36	.520	½
Kansas City	37	38	.493	2½
Detroit	34	42	.447	6
Chicago	33	43	.434	7

West Division

Houston	52	26	.667	—
Los Angeles	41	40	.506	12½
Texas	39	38	.506	12½
Seattle	39	40	.494	13½
Oakland	35	42	.455	16½

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Washington	46	31	.597	—
Atlanta	37	39	.487	8½
Miami	35	40	.467	10
New York	34	42	.447	11½
Philadelphia	25	51	.329	20½

Central Division

Milwaukee	41	38	.519	—
Chicago	39	38	.506	1
St. Louis	35	41	.461	4½
Pittsburgh	35	42	.455	5
Cincinnati	32	44	.421	7½

West Division

Los Angeles	52	27	.658	—
Arizona	50	28	.641	1½
Colorado	47	33	.588	5½
San Diego	31	46	.403	20
San Francisco	29	51	.363	23½

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bike Leg of Tagaman Triathlon

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Ben Babauta walks his bike through the loop en route to transition area at Minatchom Atdao Pavilion during last Saturday's Tagaman Triathlon.



Bikers make their way back to Minatchom Atdao Pavilion.



Volunteer Manny Sitchon gives directions to bikers heading out to the course.



An off-island triathlete heads north for the 40K bike leg of the Tagaman Triathlon.



Aldrin Sta. Ana of Team Ali'i makes his way out of the transition area.



Pro Aleksandr Dorovskikh nears completion of the bike leg of the on road triathlon race.



A Tagaman participants walks barefoot as he heads to the bike-run transition area.



Brad Ruszala leads his bike out of the transition area.

Scherzer sharp as Washington beats Cubs

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Sports



Cavaliers watch NBA draft as Billups watch continues

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Ol'Aces take pennant in youth caging

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Ol'Aces clinched the pennant in the boys U18 division of the 2017 Francisco M. Diaz Memorial Youth League after defeating NMI Rollers/DYS and the Ol'Aces Elite.

The Ol'Aces won the battle of unbeaten teams last Friday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium after routing the NMI Rollers/DYS, 66-36, and then had a similar easy victory against the Ol'Aces Elite last Tuesday, 65-31. With their pair of wins, the Ol'Aces improved their record to 10-0 and were going for the regular season sweep last night against the 670 Sonics XVIII.

Versus the Ol'Aces Elite, the Ol'Aces built a 28-7 lead after the first quarter and never looked back for the 34-point winning margin. Coby Santos, Aiferson Atan, Dean Blake, and N-Nes Siech all scored in twin digits in the Ol'Aces' lopsided victory, while only Xavier Okaruro broke into double figures for the Ol'Aces Elite (6-4).

Against the NMI Rollers/DYS (9-1), the Ol'Aces also had another balanced offense to take the pennant-clinching win. Siech, Blake, and K.J. Kabiriel teamed up in the Ol'Aces' domination of NMI

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
An Ol'Aces player pulls up for a point-blanked shot during an earlier game against the Kagman Rollers in the boys U18 division of the Diaz youth caging at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Sweep for Chinese-Taipei; PH vs Guam



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
A CNMI Junior All-Star Team player, left, checks Hong Kong's first baseman before making a move during the top of the sixth inning of their game in the 2017 Asia Pacific-Middle East Regional Tournament yesterday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Powerhouse Chinese-Taipei is still unbeaten in the Junior League, while the Philippines and Guam formally arranged their title duel in the Senior League as the elimination round of the 2017 Asia Pacific-Middle East Regional Tournament wrapped up yesterday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Chinese-Taipei, winner of the last four editions of the World Series, finished the double round-robin elimination with a 6-0 record following a 19-0 thrashing of the Philippines. With its second shutdown victory of the PH, Chinese-Taipei, which is represented by Shing-Ming Junior High School players, did not allow a single run in the entire preliminary round.

The defending World Series champions will meet the Philippines for the third time today at 10am as they battle for the championship.

The Philippines earned a 3-3 record going into today's finale and will need the mother of all upsets to prevent Chinese-Taipei from advancing to the World Series anew.

Chinese-Taipei, which incidentally won its first meeting against the PH players in a similar score, 19-0, showed the Philippines what it may be up against in the finale by winning their second duel in another lopsided fashion. Chinese-Taipei broke the game wide open with a 10-run top of the fourth inning to end the match after only five frames. Chinese-Taipei earlier scored five runs in the first inning and three and one in the third and fifth.

On defense, Chinese-Taipei held the Philippines to a 1-2-3 in the first three innings and denied the latter from becoming the first team to score against the former, as the World Series champions stranded runners on second and third after pitcher Huang Kuantun struck

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Micronesian Championships heads to Saipan

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI will be hosting a regional tournament next year, as the Oceania Athletics Association selected the Commonwealth as the venue for the 2018 Micronesian Championships.

The CNMI, through Northern Marianas Athletics, submitted a bid to host the biennial meet with the backing of Northern Marianas Sports Association and other supporters of the sport, and presentations were made during the OAA Congress and Administration last week in Fiji.

"The Micronesian Championships will head to the beautiful island of Saipan in the Northern Mariana Islands where we have previously seen editions of the Oceania Area Championships and Micronesian Games," OAA said in a statement released at the group's official website.

"On behalf of the board of directors of the NMA, I am honored to inform you that the CNMI will host the 2018 Micronesian Area Championships in Athletics. We extend our most sincere appreciation to our stakeholders and sponsors for their support. We are looking forward to your continued commitment to our sport, most especially to our athletes," NMA secretary general Robin Sapong said.

The Micronesian Cham-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Members of the CNMI National Team and coach Preston Basa, standing left, pose for a photo after the opening ceremony for the 2017 Oceania Area Championships held yesterday at the ANZ Stadium in Suva, Fiji.

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